

England's Werry Jester:  
*Robert Croucher, his Book*

Court, City and Country

J E S T S,

New, and Suitable to the Humours  
of the Times ;

Witty and Familiar, for the Encrease of  
Merriment, and Improvement  
of Friendly Conversation,

As they are used among the Wits of the Age.

To which are added, as a *Second Part*,

*Bulls; Banters, Quibbles, Repartees, Plea-  
sant Stories, and Poems;*

T H E

*Qualifications of an Expert Town-Wheelde;  
with the Art and Mystery of Wheeldeing.*

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All Profitable, Pleasant, and Delightful.

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The like never before Published.

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Done by a Lover of Merriment.

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L O N D O N,

Printed by *J. Wilde*, for *N. Boddington*, at  
the *Golden Ball*, in *Duck-Lane*, 1693.

12330. aa 30







Reader wee think the Picture is a Part  
 If not proceed and Mirth attends the rest  
 If you can smile at this there is no doubt  
 Ere halfe the Book is read you will laugh

England's Merry Jester:  
*Robert Graunger's* his Book

Court, City and Country

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# To the AUTHOR,

## Upon his New *JESTS*, &c.

**I**F Mirth and Merriment can give Applause,

In this you carry from the rest the Cause :

O'er Melancholy you a Triumph gain,

And do with little Cost, remove the Pain :

Mirth here springs up, as from its native source;

Here needs no Doctors Fees, nor Physick's Course,

To cure the Patient : It's but to peruse

What you have writ, and that that pleases, chuse :

And you will find, whate'er is your Complexion,

Some Balm, or Cordial-Powder, or Confection,

That will restore Mirth to a drooping Mind,

And render Thoughts disturb'd with Grief, refin'd.

This is not all : It will Discourse improve ;

And in the midst of Dullness, Laughter move;

Furnish the private Wits with Merriment,

And give the publick profess'd Ones content.

It's true, and I must own it, That in *Jest*

Many appear, but this I count the best :

To the Author, upon his New Jest.

*In this Men such Variety will find,  
As cannot miss to please a changing Mind :  
Blow hot or cold, your humour here is suited ;  
The Wise approv'd, the foolish are confuted :  
Conceits, by this, is scrutiniz'd, to see  
How most Mens Tempers with their Words  
agree :*

*For he who from Friends takes a jest unkind,  
When most they want him, will lag last be-  
hind.*

*Then be good-natur'd, and for Merriment,  
One Hour a Day in reading, think well spent ;  
And by consid'ring well what here is writ,  
Your self may, one day, set up for a Wit :  
For why, we see, the Wits of this Age boast  
Their Parts, in Jest's and Rhimes, and Ban-  
ter, most ;*

*And he that can excell in this, is fam'd,  
Tho' some will say, He's but a Wit nick-nam'd.*

---

THE

**THE**  
**Preface**

**TO THE**  
**READER.**

**S**ince Mirth is very  
much conducing to  
the Health of Man-  
kind, and consequently  
to the Prolongation of  
A 3 Life,

## *The Preface*

Life, as well as for pleasant Entertainment and Satisfaction to Humane Society ; it is but reasonable, all Inoffensive Ways should be studied, to procure and continue it : Wherefore, among many others, I have thought it convenient to take this Method, seeing this way it may be had without Toil, and with little Expence of Mony or Time. If Jestings was not approved, as a speedy Antidote



*to the Reader.*

tidote against Cares and  
Anxieties of Mind, I  
would fain know why  
so many wise Princes in  
divers Ages, have been  
at the Charge of Main-  
taining fit, qualify'd Per-  
sons for this very purpose,  
who, with their well-  
tim'd and seasonable Jest-  
ing, have refreshed their  
Minds, and render'd them  
calm and serene, which  
were before rumpl'd and  
toss'd with perplexing  
Affairs of State, or other  
Anxieties. A 4 But

## *The Preface*

But to come nearer to my purpose ; I must let the Reader know, That great care has been taken, to put down nothing that may reasonably give Offence to any understanding Person, or grate the modest Ear ; but that they are drawn up smooth and pleasant, the greater part being New, and never before Published, and all of them such as most usually are delivered in Company, to garnish out Discourse,

*to the Reader.*

Discourse, and keep up  
Good-Humour. He must  
needs be of a very Me-  
lancholy Temper, that  
some or other of these  
will not move to Laugh-  
ter.

But by the way, let  
me tell you, If you  
would be taken for a  
good Jester, you must  
always observe to Time  
them well; that coming  
out upon the Discourse,  
or hitting the Thing you  
speak at, they may have  
more

## *The Preface*

more Force, and better Acceptance with the Auditors. Avoid Profane Jestings, by any means ; for that cannot be pleasing, but to Profane Persons.

And the better to furnish-out this Book, that there may be nothing wanting, I have thought fit to add, as a *Second Part*, several *Bulls, Drolleries, Repartees, Banters* and *Pleasant Stories* With the *Art of Wheedling*

*to the Reader.*

*ling*, now very much in  
Use.

And so recommend-  
ing the Bōok to your fa-  
vourable Censures, I re-  
main,

*R E A D E R,*

*Your humble Servant*

*to Command,*

*J. S.*

---

*England's*

to the Reader.

ling, now very much in  
Use.

And to recommend-  
ing the Book to your fa-  
vourable Consideration, I re-  
main,

R E A D E R,

Your humble Servant

to Command,

J. S.

---

England's

*England's Merry Jester ;*

O R,

Court, City and Country

JESTS, &c.

I.

**A** Gamester having borrowed Ten Pounds, and lost it, sent for Ten more, by the same Token that he had borrowed the like Summ before ; Nay, reply'd his Friend, unwilling to venture further ; you come only by Word of Mouth, and may deceive me : therefore tell him, unless I see the Token, I shall not send him a Farthing.

B

2. A

X A drunken Blade reeling out of a Tavern, and on his way home-ward, found his Head so light, that his Heels scorning to carry it any farther, fairly tripped themselves up, and laid him in the Kennel, where he took a pleasant Nap; till the Watch-men coming their Rounds, found him a snoaring; and waking him, told him, he must Come before the Constable: Gad, tell the Constable, you Puppies you, said he, that he has nothing to do with me, for I belong to the Scavenger.

A Gentleman in a dark night had got a bit of Link of a Tavern-Drawer to light him home, it being so late, that the Link-Boys had left the Streets: but the Flame in a short time coming so near, that it almost made his Fingers suffer Martyrdom, he drew out his Sword, and stuck it on the Point of it; when coming by a Watch-House in that strange posture, the Constable called him before him, and demanded, why he walked the Streets in Terror at such a season, to Alarm and fright People with Fire and Sword.



Count, City and Country Jells.  
Sword; and began to read him a Lecture of the great Mischiefs that had been done by those two mischievous Instruments: To which our Spark reply'd, as he staggered and tottered too and fro, Why, why, Mr. Constable, you are a very strange Man, to talk at this rate; what, won't you allow me a Save-all to my Link? This Conceit so pleased the Constable, that he sent a Watch-man to see him safe home.

4.

Sir *Thomas Moor* in King *Henry* the Eighth's time, was a Man of infinite Jest, who falling into that King's Displeasure, and being to be Beheaded on *Tower-Hill*, said to one that gave him his Hand, I prithee, Good fellow lend me thy Hand to get upon the Scaffold, but as for my coming down I take no heed; and when the Executioner was about to strike the fatal Blow, Hold, Friend, said he, let me put my Beard on one side, for although you have Commission to cut off my Head, you have nothing to do to cut my Beard: for whatever has been pretended, that has

4 England's merry Jester; Or,  
committed no High-Treason, as being  
grown since I came into my Confinement.

5.

Sir *Joceline Piercy*, Brother to the Earl  
of *Northumberland*, in Queen *Elizabeth's*  
days; being an Airy Spark, and very  
Ingenious; observing a Country-woman  
had attended in the Lobby of the  
Council-Chamber several days, he demanded  
her business; who told him, she had a  
Petition to deliver, in hopes of the  
Redress of a certain Grievance, and could  
get no body to deliver it for her. Let me  
see it then, said he, and looking upon it,  
Puh, this will never do your business,  
but I will draw up one instantly that  
shall prove Effectual: her Controversie it  
seems was with the Parson of *Moorclaok*,  
about stopping a Water-course, that  
thereupon overflowed her ground, and  
did her much Damage. He wrote her  
one, and getting it presented by a Friend,  
immediately retir'd. The Woman was  
called in, and the Clerk of the Council  
order'd to read it; who could not for a  
time

**Court, City and Country Jests.**

time do it for laughing, till he was checked and commanded to read it, which was in these words,

*The Parson of Moortclack  
With two Stone and a Stake,  
Stops up my Water-Lake,  
Help, Lords, for Gods sake.*

Upon this, they allburst out into Laughter, and for the Fancy's sake, made an Order, that the Parson should remove his two Stones and a Stake, and leave the good Woman's Water-course open.

6.

Scoggin in his time, having affronted the Maids of Honour, and other Court-Ladies, by throwing out satyricall Jests; they upon their Complaint, obtained he should run the Gauntlet, and every one with a Switch have a blow at his naked Back; but before he began his Race, said, I wonder that you should be all thus bent against me, I know many of you to be honourable and virtuous, but by this Tryal it will be known whom I meant; for she that is guilty of

B 3.

the

6 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
the Charge I urg'd, will be sure to strike  
first : hereupon they stood gazing up-  
on each other, admiring who should be  
she ; each forbearing to begin, till he  
run quite through them, and escap'd  
the Punishment design'd.

7.

+ One time he wanting Money, and  
meeting a Lord as he was walking mu-  
sing in the Court, set a good face on't to  
wheedle him out of a broad Piece, and  
coming up to him, said, My Lord, I  
had a strange dream last night, and now  
half of it is out, for I dreamed I met  
you here, which now proves so, and  
that you gave me a broad Piece : Well,  
said the Lord, then I will make out the  
other part, and so gave it him ; and  
then said, Alack ! I mistook, give it me  
again, for that is a Piece my Mistress  
gave me to keep for her sake, which he  
readily did, in hopes of a better Grati-  
ty. Then said the Lord, I'll now tell  
you my Dream, that it may be out like-  
wise, viz. I dream'd I gave a Fool Mo-  
ny, and he had not the Wit to keep it :  
and so he passed on, leaving Scoggin  
to

to scratch his Ears and vex at being out-witted.

8.

King *James* the First abhorring Flatterers, and being one day in the Park, where some Noble-Men leap'd before him for a great Wager, he said, Is this all you can do? is it the farthest you can leap? A Parasite who stood at his Elbow, said it was nothing to what his Majesty had done in his younger days; thinking thereby further to ingratiate himself: to which the King reply'd, By my Saul Man, thou liest; for I could never leap so far, by five foot.

9.

The same Monarch upon his Accession to the English Diadem, had several great Presents made him; and a poor Gard'ner hearing that he gave largely to the Presenters, resolved to try his Fortune; whereupon he presented him with a Turnep of a vast bigness, and he considering the Man's poverty, ordered him a Hundred Pounds. A person who

had a very fine Horse, for which he was offer'd 120 broad Pieces; being inform'd of this, thought to himself, that if the King gave so much for the Presentation of so small a Value, he should not miss of trebble the Summ: and accordingly made a Present of his Horse, which the King liked exceeding well; but having private Intimation of the Parties Expectations, he frustrated them, by only ordering the Hundred pound Turnep should be given him to make his best on't; which Frustration caus'd him to go away, scratching his Ears,

10.

A Person having been notorious for Quarrelling, wounding divers, and at last killing a Man, Intercession was made for his Pardon, which this King granted: but such Clemency not being sufficient warning, he killed another; and when the like Suit was made, the King reply'd, Nay by my Saul Man, it was not he, but I that killed this Man; for if he had been hanged before, this party had been alive; therefore he shall dye for making me unwittingly guilty of



of Murther, and accordingly he was Executed.

## II.

The King being upon a Country Progress, and at an Inn, after Dinner went privately from his Attendance, whil'st they were in the height of their Jollity, and coming to the Stable, found the Hostler sweating in currying down the Horses; to whom he said, Good Fellow, what News do you hear in these parts? what Discourse have they of the King? Why truly Sir, reply'd he, nothing to the purpose, but that he makes a great many poor Knights. Upon this, the King retir'd; and ordered him to be sent for; the Fellow being conscious of what he had said, trembled at the consequence, but go he must, and coming into the Presence, he was ordered to kneel, which with some unwillingness he did: Then the King drawing out his Sword, which he supposed was for no other Intent, then to cut off his Head, cryed out for Mercy, and begged his Pardon; but was a little comforted, when the Royal Voice bid him

B 5.

Rise

10 England's merry Jester ; Or,

Rise up Sir Roger Clodpate Knight ; telling him his Report was now verify'd, for he had made one poor Knight ; and so dismissed him to occupy his former Employment of rubbing down the Horses Heels.

12.

This King seperated from his Company in hunting a Stag, went to a mean Cottage, on the edge of a Forrest ; where he found an old Woman seething Pottage, and being keen in Appetite, desired some of them, which she presented him ; but being none of the cleanliest, and having unusual Herbs in them, caused in him an extraordinary Belly ach, of which he complaining, she immediately fetched a Bullet, desiring him to swallow it as a present Remedy ; when straining to get it down, she cry'd, O Sir, you have a very narrow Throat, I have swallow'd it a hundred times upon the like occasion, and never found any difficulty in it.

13. Arched



*Archee* the King's Jester, when *Arch-Bishop Laud* bore a great Sway in King *Charles* the First's time, being asked his Opinion of a Set of Coach-horses that were presented to the King; said, they should be Ecclesiasticks, come from the pampering of good Benefices, by their Fatness, but were too unweildy for Service; making in his Comparisons Reflection on the Arch-Bishop: which he highly resenting, caused search to be made for him, to cause him to be punished; but he could not be found, till some of his Friends prevailed with the King to make his Peace: And where then, said he, do you think all this while I have hid my self? We know not, reply'd they, Why, said *Archee*, I'll tell you; even in the Chappel-Pulpit, for I knew his Grace never wou'd come there to look for me.

A down-right Country Farmer coming to bring this great Prelate Rent for  
some

some Tenures he held of him, and having never before been in the presence of any but a Justice or the Mayor of a Corporation, accosted him, with May it please your Worship, at the same time giving a scrape with his Hob-nail Shoes, but was jogged by the Servants behind him, and order'd to say Grace instead of Worship; What, said he, must I say Grace where there's no Meat? but if it be the fashion here, 'tis an odd one; then lifting up his Hands, he said, *The Eyes of all things, &c.* and so went on, to the Admiration of the Bishop, who took him to be distracted, till he found he had done it by Misunderstanding.

## II.

King Charles the First, riding a Progress, and coming to a Country Knight's House, who though proud of the King's Visit, yet his Coffers could not reach to a very sumptuous Entertainment for so great a Train; but having very fine Orchards and Gardens, it being Fruit time of year, what wanted in Fish, Fowl, Sweet-meats, &c. was supplied by the  
Tables

Tables being loaded with Pears, Apples, Plumbs, Nuts, &c. infomuch, that the King said, What means this? we shall ruin the Country: which a blunt Country Fellow who waited hearing, and thinking to put a fine Gloss upon the matter, replied, Your Majesty need not fear that, for we have so many, that we are forced to give them to the Hogs: which pretty Complement set the whole Company in a Laughter.

## 16.

*Hugh Peters*, the Bell-weather Holder-forth, who was a kind of a Buffoon, Jester to *Oliver Cromwell*, Preaching at *White-Hall* before him, began to commend the Officers for their Courage and Bravery, telling how they had been Advanced, what Favours they had received from the Protector; but here's particularly one amongst you that has been as deserving as the best of you; a Man that has had Experience of Hemp in his Calling; for some say he's a Shoemaker, others, that he's but a Cöbler; but let him be which of these he will, his Name is *Hewson*, and here sits asleep under the

the Pulpit. This Banter upon the cobling Colonel made such a tittering among those that sate next to him, that he awak'd, and thinking all was done, was about to go out; which *Peters* perceiving, said, Nay, Colonel, since you have had such a large Nap, you are by this time sober enough to take tother Glass; and turning up his Pulpit-glass, went on with another Hour's Harrangue, much to the like edifying purpose.

## 17.

The French Ambassadour residing at Court, in the Reign of King Charles the Second, to boast the Greatness and Success of his Master, went vauntingly about, shewing a Distich he had made;

*Una dies Lotheros Burgundos Hebdomas*

*Una domus Battavos Una quid Annus agit.*

This proud Insult displeasing the witty Lord Rochester, since dead, he was resolved to put upon the Monsieur, and looking over his shoulder, turn'd them thus into English.

Lorrain

Lorrain he stole ; by Fraud he got Bur-  
gundy,  
Holland he bought ; but Faith, he'll pay for't  
one day.

Upon this, the French-man made his  
Complaint to the King, but to no  
purpose ; the King telling him, he was  
a person that would have his Humours  
of that kind, do what he could.

18.

This Noble-Man being very early in  
St. James's Park, walking and musing  
for new Grotchets of Poesie, met the  
King, with his Brother, and the Duke  
of Landerdale, walking from White-Hall  
to St. James's ; the King seeing him,  
said, How now, Rochester ? what makes  
you so early here ? I warrant you have  
some new-minted Fancies in your Head ?  
Come, let us hear one of them ; the  
Earl excused it, as not convenient ; but  
the King pressing it, promising he would  
not be angry whatever it was, he thus  
descanted on them :

For

*For Maiden-Head-Bargains, your Majesty's  
best,*

*The Duke for his Valour and breaking a  
Fest;*

*And Lauderdale, that is so wondrous  
pretty,*

*By his Politicks, gains the Applause of the  
City.*

O my Conscience, says the King, he  
has Satyr'd upon us all: well, go thy  
ways, thou art an Arch Wag, and so  
they parted.

King Charles the Second was a very  
merciful Prince to Offenders, and ex-  
tended his Clemency to a great many  
that were condemn'd; the condemn'd  
Roll one day being presented to him by  
the Recorder of London, to know his  
Pleasure, who should Suffer; several  
Courtiers being present, interceded some  
for one, and some for another; whom  
he crossed out, till there was but one left;  
then he asked who spoke for him, but  
none answering, O my Conscience, says  
the

the King, this is a poor Fellow, and wants Mony, I'll stand his Friend; and struck him out.

## 20.

When the great Heat of Petitioning was one Foot, a Petition among others was Delivered by.— which being read, King *Charles* looking upon those that brought it, said, very familiarly to them; Well, Neighbours, I cannot but wonder you should trouble your selves about my Business, however, we'll defer it for this time; and tell the rest of my Neighbours, when I come to *Windsor*, I'll discourse it further with them over a Pot of Ale, and so dismissed them; smiling at the Answer they were to return to the rest of the Subscribers.

## 21.

A Woman who was adapted to somewhat of the Frailty of her Sex, being brought to bed of a Boy, her Husband sitting by the Bed-side, was consulting who should be Gossips, and amongst others, he named a person who was by some



rying with a Man she so well loved  
 O you young Whore then ! said the  
 Old Man, do you confess it ? Come  
 Wife, continu'd he, let's send for the  
 Rogue, and marry them, before it be  
 noised any further ; and accordingly by  
 this Trick the Lovers obtained their  
 Desires with the consent of all parties,  
 which no Entreaties before could pro-  
 cure.

## 26.

A super annuated Chamber-Maid  
 perceiving the Midwife to be so well  
 pay'd, and have a great deal of Mo-  
 neys at her Mistresse's Christenings, re-  
 solved to study that Art, and having  
 got some Notions out of Books, declar-  
 ed her self a Proficient ; giving warn-  
 ing, and resolving to set up for a Mother  
 Midnight : her Mistress being a witty  
 Woman, smiled at this, and to improve  
 the Frolick, told her, she highly ap-  
 proved of her Undertaking, and doubt-  
 ed not her Skill ; adding, she should try  
 her first practice on a young Cousin of  
 hers, who was to come from London to lye  
 in at her house in a few days : for this  
 pro-



promise she returned her Mistress many Thanks, and prepared herself with Necessaries. In the mean while the Mistress and some Gentlewomen whom she had acquainted with the Intreague, procured a smock-fac'd beardless Youth, who, dressed in Womans cloaths, came from London, and passed for the expected Cousin, with a Cushion underneath for a great Belly: Throws were pretended, and the new Midwife called, who immediately fell to grabbling, and catching hold of his Label of Mortality, fell a tugging at it, as supposing it part of the Child, crying, Now all hands to help, for I'll assure you 'tis Labour, or here is one Leg in the World already; at which they all bursted out into a Laughter, till their sides ak'd, and Mother Midnight finding her Mistake, left not only her Service for shame, but forswore the Practice for ever, seeing she had been so fooled at the first Bout.

27.

A Country Lass coming up to Town in a Pack-horse to seek her Fortune, had

had the good luck to be hired as a Servant to an an old Rich Mercer, who was a Batchelour, and pleased him so well, that at last he married her ; he Brother, and the top of her own Kindred, who was a down-right honest Plough-man, hearing of his Sister's promotion, throw by his Paddle-staff, put on his Holy-day cloaths, took up his Quarters Wages, and up to London he came ; and knowing the Streets by the Direction of a Letter, though not the House, enquir'd from Door to Door for his Sister *Joan*, who had lately married her Master, till at last he was so lucky to find the right, where he was highly welcomed, and being at Dinner, the old Mercer said, Well, Brother-in-Law as I now must call you, I am glad to see you, or any of my Wife's Relations she has been a good Servant to me, and I hope she'll make as good a Wife ; we have a plentiful Estate, and all I wish is a Child to inherit it, which yet we have no hopes of : at this *Dick* looking wistfully upon Madam his Sister, bluntly said, How now *Joan*, what art thou turned a barren Sow in London ? thou wast not wont to be so in the Country.

and though she frown'd, beckon'd, and made dumb signs for him to hold his Peace, yet he went on : And well, Brother, (*continu'd he*) as for an Heir, you need not trouble your self, for she has a thumping Boy in the Country, got by *Will. Debs*, her Master's Thrasher ; and the Parish would be glad to be discharg'd of it. At this, the Old Man star'd, and Madam went blushing from the Table, that a Fool's Bolt so unwittingly shot, had ruined her Reputation.

## 28.

A Woman having a Crof-grain'd Husband, hard to please ; she desir'd him to write down what she should do, and what she should not do, that she might not err in her Performance : this was done, and she well observed her Rules ; when one day going a mile or two to visit a Friend, the good Man got light-headed, and on his Return home, reeled into a Ditch, calling to his Wife to help him out : Indeed Husband (*said she*) I remember no such Article in my Orders, but I'll go home  
C and

26 England's merry Jester; Or,  
and see; and if there be, I'll come and  
help you, or else you must get out as  
well as you can, for I am resolved not  
to break them.

29.

An unmarried Gentlewoman desirous to have her Picture drawn, sent for a Limner, and gave him Directions to draw it at Large, in full Proportion, but to represent a Virgin: he having drawn the Face to her Content, drew the Drapery and other Parts at home; but, when she saw it, she was disgusted, because it was not of Stature and Proportion to her Body: O Madam, (*said he*) I lessened it on purpose; for had it been so Large, none would have believed it could have represented the Picture of a Virgin in this early Age.

30.

A Girl about Ten Years old, had got a trick of confidently staring in Mens Faces when they were talking; for which her Mother reproved her, saying; Daughter, our Sex enjoys us Modestly,

Modesty, and you ought to be bashful, and look downward when you are in Mens Company, and not to stand gazing and gaping as if you were looking Babies in their Eyes: to which the pert Girl reply'd, This Lecture forsooth, should have been read in the former ignorant Ages, but every Age grows wiser and wiser; that Maids of this Age know better: Men indeed, may look down on the primitive Dust, from whence they were taken, but Man being our Original, I will stare in their Faces, say what you can to the contrary.

31.

A wealthy Citizen, and once a Man of great Authority, considering how Time improves Understanding, was heard to say, that every Age grew wiser and wiser, than that which preceded it; for (*continu'd he*) thus I prove it; My Father was wiser than my Grand-father, I am wiser than my Father, and my Daughter is wiser than us all three.

32.

A Widower, whose former Wife had lead an unquiet Life, by reason of his Insufficiency, came a courting to a brisk Lass, who thereupon refused; but her Mother chid her, saying, She was a Fool to refuse such an Offer, seeing he's very Rich, and would maintain her very bravely : Ay, but Mother, (*reply'd she,*) If we should chance to fall out, what shall we do for a Peacemaker to reconcile us? In troth, let who will take him, I had rather go in my Hair-Lace and Slippers with a Cock of the Game, than to ruffle in Silks, to be trod by a Capon.

33.

A Country Squire of a home-spun breeding, Courted a brisk Girl, Daughter to a Rich Farmer, who by her Father's Consent, was persuaded to marry him, he having a pretty good Estate; and accordingly the day was appointed : but one day espying a Mare, on which the old Man used to ride to Mar-

Market, and for her easie going was much esteemed, which he desired into the Bargain; but being refused, flung away in a Huff, and told him, he might then keep his Daughter: the Girl was mighty glad of this Rupture, but soon after, repenting his Folly, he came again, when none but she was at home; but she made as if she knew him not, Why, this is strange (*said he*) that you should so soon forget me; why, I am such a one, O, I cry you mercy Sir! (*reply'd she*) You are the Gentleman that came a wooing to my Father's Gray Mare; why truly, your Mistress is grazing in the Orchard; you may go and make your Addresses to her, if you please. This Repartee so dashed him out of Countenance, that he never had the face to speak to her afterward.

A Woman having often upbraided her Husband for following Whores; he came one night, expecting a Juniper-Lecture, having a Gut filled with Ox Blood, tyed at both ends, in his Breeches, he missed not his Expectation; for she



presently began to open at him in the old Dialogue : Well Wife (*says he*) since this breeds our difference, I'll ease you of your Jealousie, by removing the Cause of it ; and so in a furious manner, pulling out his Knife, cut the Gut, and threw it in the fire : the Woman seeing the Blood, and thinking he had destroyed her Play-fellow, run screaming out, crying for help, for that her Husband had murther'd himself, and a great many Women coming in, found him on the Floor in a counterfeit Swoon : an old Woman among the rest, undertook to search the Wound, and sadly assured them, it was too true, for his Guts were all in his Breeches : O then said the Wife, I had rather he had cut his Head off.

A Company of Roaring Blades coming into a House, called for Wenches, but there happened to be but one at that time in waiting; at which they began to bluster ; *saiyng*, What a Pox, have you no more Whores, Landlord ? No Sirs, (*reply'd he*) not at present, but by  
and

and by I shall ; and in the mean time if you please, I'll send you up my own Wife.

36.

Two Country Fellows going by Saint Pauls, as it is now Magnificent in building, says one to the other, (who stood with his Mouth at half Cock,) look you here *Robin*, here's a great House, I warrant it cost Vorty Shillings building : Ay, reply'd the other, Vorty and Vorty to that. Nay, hold you there *Robin*, not too many Vorties ; for my Vather had a Barn built for Vifty Shilling.

37.

A Merry Wench perceiving a Fellow with a Torn pair of Breeches sit straddling, and his Whim-wham hanging out, said, Prithee *Harry* what's all this? Why, only my Purse and Pack-thread : Say you so ; (*said she*) why then my Purse being cut, Prithee lend me your Pack-thread to mend it.

C 4

38. Two

Two Gentlemen travelling, and spying at a Brook in a Field, by the way-side, a bouncing Country Lass, with her Coats trussed up to the middle of her Thighs, bucking her Cloaths; says one to the other, let us put upon this Wench. I'll venture a Bottle, says his Companion, she answers you. Done, says the other: Then Sweet-heart (*says he*) what ails your Thighs to look so red? O Sir, (*reply'd she*) I carry fire in mine Arse, and want your Nose for a Bucket to take up water to quench it: Upon this unexpected Repartee, he durst not make a second Attack, but yielded his Wager lost.

A Parson over-seeing the mending of a Causey before his Dcor, a Noble-man riding by, thought to joak upon him, saying, Well Doctor, I see you are mending the way; but it seems it is not the way to Heaven: No, my Lord, (*reply'd he*) if it were so, I should look upon

upon it as a great wonder to see your Lordship come this way.

## 40.

A Country Fellow mounted between two Dorsers in *Bartholomew Fair*, sat gaping at the juggling Tricks of the *Jack Puddings*, whilst four arch Fellows shouldering up his Pack-saddle, ungirthed it, and drew his Horse from under him, which they carryed into a neighbouring Inn : the Fellow all this while looking stedfastly up to the Scaffold; whilst being weary with supporting him, they slip'd aside, and let him fall squalch to the ground : whilst this amazed him, and made him stare about, one came with a snip of Horse-hair in his Hand, saying, he saw the Horse sink into the ground, and catching by his Tail, tho' he could not hold him, had plucked off that Hair : The Fellow took it for Conjuratation, and on his Knees besought them to restore his Keffel; but nothing would do, till he had deposited all the Mony he had taken at Market for his Butter and Eggs.

One having stoln an Alarum Watch, stiffly denyed it before the Justice, so that upon the slender Evidence, he was discharged; but before he got out of the Hall, the Alarum went, and he was thereupon ordered to be brought back again; at which he cryed out, O what hard luck have I! that I, could so easily baffle both Justice and Constable, and yet am trappan'd by the Watch.

A Drover driving some Sheep through a narrow passage where the Trap-door of a Cellar was open, a black Ram fell in, and it being night, the rest were driven on, without it being miss'd: The Boy being sent down for Drink, and seeing a black thing, with shining Eyes, came running up in a manner breathless crying out, the Devil was in the Cellar; the Master going down to see, came up more affrighted; whereupon a Parson a little suster'd, being in the House, undertook to Exorcise the supposed Demon, as most proper to his Function; and so with his Book and his Candle went down. The Ram no sooner heard him

him make a great noise, but he came running full drive at him; the Parson starting at this unexpected Assault, and throwing his Arms abroad, one of his Sleeves caught hold on a Tenter-hook, whereupon in the Fright, thinking he had been in Belzebub's Paws, throwing away his Book and Candle, cryed out with a lamentable Voice, Help! help! he has me, he has me: which so frightened those above, that instead of coming to his Assistance, they all run out of Doors, and left him to shift for himself.

## 43.

An ordinary Shentleman of *Wales* travelling to *London* to seek his Fortune, and being put to hard shifts, borrowed a Silver Tankard at an Inn where he lay, which being found upon him, he was Tryed at the *Old-Baily*, and there burnt in the Hand; which narrow escape of hanging, made him haste back again to the Mountains: upon his return, one of his Country-men enquired of his Adventures; O (said he) amongst other rare Things, hur met with the

36 England's merry Jester; Or,  
the cunningest Fortune-tellers imaginable, who looking on her, told her, whether her should live or die, and that hur might the better remember what they said, it was writ with an Iron Pen in hur Hand.

44.

Another Welsh-man who had been whipp'd at the Carts-arse, and his Companion hang'd; upon his Return, being demanded what was become of the latter, (*reply'd hur*) was pravelly marry'd. Are you sure on't, (*said they?*) Yes, Plutter-a-nails was hur, for hur very well remember, hur danc'd such a Shigg at her Wedding, as hur never danc'd in all hur life before.

45.

*Teague* an Irish-man, being Servant to an English Gentleman, his Master going to the Bowling-Green, and forgetting a pair of Bowls he had caused to be made for his own playing, sent *Teague* to fetch them; who mistaking him, went unto the next Close to fetch  
the



the Bull, but he would not come without the Cows, so he brought them altogether, and drove them into the Green. Sirrah, (says his Master) what's the meaning of this? where are my Bowls? Why, Dear Joy (*reply'd he*) here is thy Bull; but upon my Shoul, I cou'd not get the damn'd Bitch to come without his Moder and Sisters, and dat be de Reoshon I stay'd so long, hoping dou wilt not be angry. The simplicity of the Fellow, put them all presently into a fit of Laughter, and induced his Master to forgive him.

## 46.

Remember, (says a Gentleman to Irish Dannel) that you mind me to write a Letter, and send you to morrow morning to such a place; Yes, Dear Joy, (*reply'd he*) and so getting up the next morning, away he trudged Three Miles, without speaking to his Master; being come to the House, the Porter asked him his business, or what he come for. By my Shoul Joy, (*said he*) I cannot tell; Why, who sent you, (says the other,) Why, my Master bid me bring a Letter,



Letter. Where is it? (says the other) I cannot tell. (said the Irish-man) Who did write it? In good troth I cannot tell; (*continu'd he*) for I came away before he was up: The Man seeing him block-headish, resolv'd to put a Trick upon him, and thereupon order'd one of his servants to go to a Wasp's Nest, and catch about forty of them in a Box: this done, he told him he knew what his Master design'd to send him for, *viz.* was a Box of Silk-Worms, but he must put them in his Breeches to keep them warm, or they would die; he did it accordingly, but had not gone far on his way, but the box opened, and out came Monsieur Yellow Jackets, fixing their Launces in his Thighs and Buttocks; which made him caper, run and roar like one possessed with a Fury.

## 47.

Another Gentleman having one of this Nation to his Footman, as wise as the rest; order'd him to step over the way to such a Tavern, and ask if he were there: the Fellow very ignorantly went, and returning, says his Master,

ster, Am I there or no? No, be my  
Shoul Joy, they say dee be not there,  
but thou wilt be there by and by.

## 48.

Two bouncing Lasses washing them-  
selves at a Spring in an Orchard, it  
happen'd whilst they were mbrry and  
dashing one another; a Fellow that  
came to steal some Fruit, lay snug in  
a Tree, whose Boughs hung over the  
Water, but peeping out of Curiosity  
too low, his hold slipp'd, and souze he  
fell in, crying out, miserably he should  
be drowned: the naked Lasses frighted  
hereat, left their Cloaths behind them,  
and fled amain. The old Man their  
Father, was just shutting the Door as  
they came to it; but they rushing in,  
beat him down backwards, and running  
up stairs, covered themselves in the Bed.  
The Old Man thus overthrown, lay  
sprawling and crying out Thieves, and  
Murder; when the Neighbours com-  
ing in to demand the cause of his Ex-  
clamation, O! (*said he*) there are  
Thieves in my House, desperate Rus-  
sians, all in Buff, with black Bandileers  
under

40 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
under their Waists, are run up stairs:  
This startled them at first, but the truth  
being known, turned their Fear into  
Laughter.

X  
49.

A Priest visiting a Party that was  
sick, and without hope of Recovery,  
proceeded to comfort him, saying, If  
he dyed, he need not fear to be car-  
ried to Heaven on Angels Wings : That  
will do well (*reply'd he*) with a faint  
Voice, for I am so weakned with my  
Sickness, I shall never get there on  
foot.

50.

A Gentleman sending his Irish Ser-  
vant into the Mew, to see whether his  
Hawks had Cast, and he seeing one  
that had got his Hood off, playing with  
the other, and sometimes laying hold of his  
Head; he run in, and assured his Master,  
that one of them were about to Cast :  
How do you know that ? says his Master  
Why, by St. Patrick's Shoe-buckle, there  
be

be the great shign of it, for the other Hawk is holding his Forehead.

## 51.

A Country Yeoman marrying a Farmer's Buxom Daughter, but she having a greater Kindness for another, had promis'd him her Maiden-head; and whil'st all were in the height of Merriment, they two retir'd into a back Milk-house, and there the Promise was made good; but before the Sport was well ended, her Mother came in, and discovering what had passed, fell a ratling her extreamly, whil'st her Gallant sneaked away. The Bridegroom hearing the noise, came and desired to know what the matter was? O Son! says the old Woman, the Baggage has just now crack'd a Pipkin that has been kept without a Flaw these Nineteen Years: O Law! (*says Clodpate*) who cou'd not reach the meaning on't; is that all? Pray don't be angry, and here is a Groat to buy another.

A Woman who had a drunken Husband, thinking to reclaim him by Affrightment, put him once into a Coffin, and laid him in a Vault, where being dead drunk, he slept all Night; the next morning she knock'd so loud at the door of the Vault, that he awaking, asked who was there? One (*said she*) that is come to bring Meat to the Dead. If you had brought Drink (*reply'd he*) you had been welcome, but for Meat I have no occasion for, and therefore may carry it back again. O miserable Woman that I am! (*said the Wife*, what a hard Fortune is mine, to have a Husband that will be drunk even in his Grave.

A Brisk Lass having married a Taylor, carryed him to see her Friends in the Country, where some Wenches giggling, and being heard to say, *Margery* has married a Taylor, good lord! what (*said she*) replying sharply, would you

you have had me a marryed an Angel?

54.

An old Knight, who a long time had a Female Help-mate, called a House-keeper; who had so well tickled his Fancy, that when he dyed, he left her his Coach and Horses, and Five Hundred a Year: in requital of which Extraordinary Benificence, she Erected him a Monument, where among other Things, his Figure lay along at Large, and hers was placed kneeling at his Feet with a Book, as if Reading: An Arch Wag seeing this, who was no stranger to their Intreagues, writ under it with a piece of Charcole, viz.

*Though good Sir Harry wou'd not Marry,  
He lov'd the Pleasure out of measure:  
When he liv'd, and had his Feeling,  
She was Lying, he was Kneeling.  
But now he's Dead, and past his Feeling,  
He is Lying, she is Kneeling.*

A Gentlewoman, who in her Life-time was of but light Fame, and so Lustful, that she labour'd to Sue out a Divorce against her Husband for Insufficiency, but dyed before it could be obtained: whereupon laying a Stone over her, he caused these Lines to be Cut on it.

*She's dead, who living, no Man e're could please,*

*No natural Engine her hot Lust could ease,  
But now behold the Wonders Death can do,  
One Stone sufficeth her, we plainly shew,  
Who in her Life-time want content with  
Two.*

A Weaver's Wife in Spittle-Fields, upon the Death of her Husband, ordered a Mason to lay a Stone on his Grave and being desirous to have some Word upon it, knew not what ; at last it came into her Head, viz. *Here lyeth the Bone of John Ball, Weaver of Spittle-Fields*  
An



And what more? says the Mason, who was a Thick-skull'd Fellow at Invention. That's all, says the Woman; upon this, he thinking she meant the last Words for a Rhime, set it down in this manner.

*Here lyeth the Body of John Ball,  
Weaver of Spittle-Fields,—That's all.*

57.

In another place, a Man having been very troublesome to his Neighbours, they were all glad when he died, yet in Remembrance of him, clubb'd for a Stone, upon which were Engraved these Lines.

*Here lies the Body of John Dry,  
Ho! ho! do's he so? and there let him lie;  
If you disturb him he will have a Claw,  
His very Ghost with you will go to Law.*

58.

A Country Fellow, who had never seen a Coach before, observing one come rattling along with a Gentlewoman in it;



46 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
it ; demanded of one that came riding  
behind, what that Trundling-House  
was call'd? who reply'd, a Coach ; Ve-  
ry fine, reply'd the Countryman : And  
who is that Gay Woman in it ? Why  
the Queen of Hearts, said the other ;  
In troth (*reply'd he*) I thought so, be-  
cause the Knave of Clubs was so close at  
her heels ; for they are always shuffled  
together.

59.

A Mountebank riding along the Road,  
saw a great Croud in another Road a  
little distant, and sent his Man to see  
what the matter was ; who came ri-  
ding back in great hast and Consterna-  
tion, crying out before he came at him,  
O Master! fly, fly, for your Life ; What  
ails the the Fool? what's the matter? said  
our Doctor? O Sir: said his Man, there's  
a Fellow a going to be hanged for kil-  
ling a Man, and you have killed forty  
to my knowledge in your time, with  
your Pills and Portions.

60. A

60.

A swinging stomach'd Fellow, being set to a large piece of Roast-Beef, cut sometimes at one end, and sometimes at another; the Mistress of the House entreated him to cut fair, and not spoil the fashion of the Meat: Don't you take care no care for that; (*reply'd*) it matters not where I cut, for I do intend to make both ends and the middle meet, before I go: and he proved as good as his word; for he eat it all up, to the Admiration of all the Bidders.

61.

Counsellour *Marriot* the great Eater, bargaining with a Man that knew him not, to fill his Belly with Gammon of Bacon for a Shilling, he presently devoured the Gammon; at which the Man began to grumble, saying, He had put it into his Breeches, or convey'd it out at the Window, for he was confident, no Man could ever eat it; it weighed (*said*) Nine Pound and half: Puh, thou art a fil-

48      England's merry Jester ; Or,  
a silly Fellow, (*says Marriot*) and do  
not understand what belongs to eating  
I'll wager you the price of both, I eat  
another. Done, said the Cook, and fetch  
ed another ; standing by till he had eat  
above half, and was going on to the  
rest ; then he snatched it away, saying  
Certainly thou art the Devil ; for none  
but the Devil cou'd devour at such a  
rate : and so without taking a penny of  
his Money, entreated him to be pack  
ing.

62.

Henry the Eighth, designing to War  
against *France*, ordered a Rough Mes  
sage of Defiance to be carried to the  
French King, which was so grating, that  
the Messenger doubted of his Life if he  
delivered it : saying, The French King  
would undoubtedly take his Head off  
repl'y'd old *Harry* sternly, If he dares to  
do it, I will revenge the Affront, in  
taking off the Heads of a Thousand of  
his Subjects : But alas ! Sir, said the o  
ther, what good will that do me  
when I have lost mine ? for I do not  
believe any of theirs will fit my Shoul  
ders.

63.

63.

A Lady having a Lap-Dog, that she was very fond of; one day the Maid hapen'd to beat him for a naughty Trick, and my Lady hearing his Cry, came running to his Rescue; demanded what he had done? and began to chide her rough usage of her beloved Whelp. Madam, (*says the Wench*) he deserves this Correction, and worse; if you knew all, you'd say so: Why, what has he done? tell me quickly, Nothing, Madam, but you having carelessly left your Dressing-Box open, he has very unmannerly untrussed a Point amongst your Ladyship's Paints and Perfumes.

64.

A Taylor's and a Baker's Boy meeting together, Come, says the first, let us go and crack a Pot, we shall ne'er want Money at our Trades, as long as there are Backs and Bellies, and our Masters have chalk'd out a way to Pinch and Steal for our Expences. I know not what Tricks your Master has shewed

D

you,

60. England's merry Jester ; Or,  
you, (says the Baker's Boy ) but I'll  
take it upon me to say, that my Ma-  
ster is as honest a Man, as ever liv'd  
by Bread.

65.

• A Person seeing a Fray in the street,  
and being Pot-valiant, wou'd needs  
thrust himself into it ; got a shrew'd  
crack'd Crown, which oblig'd him to  
send for a Surgeon ; who being long  
at Probing ; he asked him what he was  
doing ? Why searching (said the other)  
For what ? (said the Patient) To see  
if your Brains were not hurt, (says the  
Surgeon.) Truly Sir, (reply'd he ) you  
may spare that labour, for if I had had  
any Brains, I had escap'd this Mischiefe,  
by being wise enough to keep out of  
a Fray, wherein I had no Concern-  
ment.

66.

A Man coming to a Painter to draw  
him a Bear upon a Sign-board, and be-  
ing to be brought to but a very indiffe-  
rent Price ; (says the Painter) the  
Chain

Chain and Collar must be Leaf-Gold, and that is dear: Puh (says the Man) I care not a Pin whether there be any Chain or Collar. So drawn it was at his price, but with such slight Colours, that the next great Rain washed it off. The Alehouse-Man hereupon sent for the Painter, and reproached him for a Cheat; O (*says he*) did I not tell you that by all means, you should have had a Collar and a Chain; but being left loose, has e'en run away, and all that I can say to the matter is, you must find him where you can.

## 67.

A Scotch-man intending to set up a Two penny-Chop-Ordinary, went to a Carvers, and bargain'd with him to Carve him a Bare Head for his Sign, and he taking him for a Barber or Perriwig-maker, Carved him one accordingly: but seeing it, disliked it; (*saying*) Upon my Saul Man, in geud faith this is not the Bare Head I meant; No (*says the Carver*) what then? Why, a Bare Head of the Sows Husband who has little Grices and Gruntlins follow-

32 Englands murre Jester; Or,  
ing her, crying a-week, a-week. O  
now I understand you, (says the Car-  
ver) you mean a Boars Head, Yes, by  
Saint *Andrew* do I; (said *Jockey*) and  
so they agreed.

68.

In Popish Times, when the Holy  
Rood was set up; a Country Carver  
had made such an ugly Image, that it  
stood like a Bug-bear to fright the Chil-  
dren from Church, so that the People  
would not contribute to pay him; he  
thereupon warned them before the  
Mayor of the Town; who told them,  
'twas reason the Man should be pay'd  
for his Labour, and if they lik'd it not  
for a God, they might make a Devil  
of it.

69.

X  
A Fellow being sharply reprov'd by  
his Neighbour's Wife, for conferring  
with Lewd Women: Why, what would  
you have me to do (says he) I am a  
Batchelour and resolve not to marry;  
yet if I could have an opportunity to  
kiss



kiss an honest Woman when I had an occasion, it would wean me : Hark you then ( *said she* ) whispering in his Ear, my Husband won't come home to night, and I'll leave the back Door open for you, you know the way to my Bed.

70.

A Woman having a drunken Husband, who when she scolded at him, used to beat her when he came home in that pickle ; whereupon she went to a Doctor to know what would cure him of that boisterousness ; who by her Discourse, perceiving that her Tongue occasion'd her hard Usage, told her, he would give her a Water, which if she held in her Mouth when she let him in, and till he was in bed, he should have no power to beat her. The silly Woman put it in practice, and whilst her Mouth was so fill'd, she could not use her Clacker, and so escap'd many a bang'd sides : Mr. Doctor got a Crown a week of her, till one of her Gossips diving into the Mystery ; told her, she might as well save the Charge, and hold her

D 3

Tongue

54 England's merry Jest; Or,  
Tongue without it, and consequently  
be secure from beating.

71.

A Country-man being sent by a Gentleman to his Son with some Moneys, who was a Student in the *Temple*, and finding a Note in the Key-hole, *viz.* *I am gone to the Devil*, he started, and his Hair stood an end, and for a while knew not what to think or say; till supposing himself near the Confines of Hell, and that he might be fetched to accompany him: he thunder'd down stairs, took Horse, whipping and spurring without having the Courage to look behind him, till he came home, and there with abrupt stammerings, delivered the supposed dreadful News of his young Master's fatal Disaster testified under his own Hand: but when the Truth of the business came out, it proved to be only the Devil Tavern, where he was recreating himself with some Friends.

72. A

A Country Lawyer being in years, yet, upon a second Marriage, taking a brisk young Wife, she made many dumb signs to inveigle his Clerk to her Embraces; who, for a while, did not, or would not understand them: but growing gamefome, she persecuted him so at latt, that by tickling, and other Lovetricks he could not write in his Desk for her. Whereupon, he made a mark with Chalk, about two yards distance, upon the floor, telling her, That if she came over it, he would lay her down and ruffle her to some purpose. Will you so, (*said she,*) I'll venture that. Upon which, seeing but too plainly what she wou'd be at, he took her in his arms, and threw her upon the bed: where, as to what they did, we drew the curtain. A little Boy, that cou'd but just speak, saw this passage; and the Lawyer coming home, and about to step over the chalk, he catch'd hold of him, crying, Oh, Father! Father! if you step over the chalk the Clerk will take you and throw you on the bed, and then lye upon you a

great while, as he did upon my Mother.  
By this we see, Children and Fools tell  
truth.

73.

X A Woman, playing not only false  
with her Husband, but with her Gal-  
lant, admitted more to her Embraces :  
so that one coming suddenly, before she  
cou'd dismiss the other, she made the  
first get upon the Bed's Teaster, whil'st  
she entertain'd the second ; but hearing  
her Husband's tread, coming up stairs,  
she thrust him under the bed. The  
Husband, by the heat and confusion  
she was in, the rumpling of her cloaths,  
and the like, smelling a Rat, commanded  
her to tell him who had been there.  
She solemnly protested, No body. But  
he urging it further, she, with up-listed  
hands, protested again, saying, There's  
one above knows all. The Fellow on  
the Teaster thinking she had purposely  
betray'd him, put out his Head, all  
hung with Cobwebs, and said, There's  
one underneath the Bed knows as much  
as I : Whereupon, the other crept on,  
all rowled in the Dust. She seeing now,  
it

it was in vain to deny it, fell upon her knees; and begg'd pardon. Which the good-natur'd Cuckold granted her, taking her Word for her future Honesty.

## 74.

A grave, old Country Blade coming before a Judge, and taking his Oath in a Cause, he was bid to have a care what he swore, lest he went to the Devil: I fear not that, *(reply'd he, by way of retort,)* for I have given him my eldest Son, and he ought to be contented with one out of a Family. How's that, *(says the Judge,)* pray explain yourself. Why truly, I have made him a Lawye-, and you know the Devil was a Lawyer from the beginning. A Lyar you mean, *(said the other.)* I know not *(reply'd he)* what distinction there may be made in London, but I'm sure, by sad Experience, we in the Country know no difference between a Lawyer and a Lyar.

75.

X A French-man coming to plead at the Barr, in a Cause, and speaking broken English, came at last to citing of Cases: Now, my Lord (*said he*) having gone thus far, I'll *shite* you some Cases to prove it. Then I *shite* you the First Case; now I *shite* you a Second: Having cited these two, Now (*said he*) I will *shite* you a *Turd*. Then said the Judge, joakingly, I hope you will have the manners to withdraw, and not do it openly in the Court, before all this Company, especially in hot Weather. This non-plus'd Monsieur, and put him beside his Cases, whil'st the People found matter for laughter.

76.

X An old Blade with a great Beard, standing near a Carr-Horse, the Horse taking his Beard for a bottle of Hay, cry'd Whehee, and snap'd at it; which made the old Man give such a leap back, that he stumbled and fell in the Kennel: when getting up, he fell to cudgel-

cudgelling the Horse, and in a great rage, cry'd out, You plaguy Toad, who made you a Barber, that you must attempt to shave me, with a pox t' yee?

77.

A Water-man having taken divers into his Boat, and they not sitting in equal ballance, cry'd, as is usual, Pray, Gentlemen, trim the Boat. Whereat, a Barber being one in company, started up and cry'd, You Whore's-bird! How came you to know that I am a Barber?

78.

A humorfome Fop taking pleasure to be laugh'd at, thinking, upon that account, that his Discourse was very pleasing: A brisk Lady told him, Truly, Sir, you have a tickling Fancy; and rather than want being the subject of Diversion you will court your own Shadow to flout yee.

79. A.



X A Sailor having been a three-years Voyage, his Wife came to welcome him home, with a Kinchin of about half a year old in her arms: At the sight of which he grew crusty, saying, He thought she had been an honest Woman, than to have serv'd him such a trick? Why (*reply'd she*) did you force me to do it, by staying longer than your Promise? I could not help that, (*said he.*) Nor could I this, (*said she:*) For one night leaving my Chamber-door open, between sleep and wake, I found my self boarded a-stern, and thought it had been thee, my Dear, that came stealing in to surprize me; but being more vigorously attack'd than usual, I something doubted, and said softly to my self, *I pray God it be John!* Well (*said he*) if it happen'd against thy Will, I freely forgive thee: come, let's kiss and be Friends; but be sure to be more cautious how you leave your Door open another time, for this is a slippery world we live in, I must tell you that.

80.

A French man coming to a house, had a Dish dress'd after the Gallick Mode ; but some Spice being wanting, he call'd, in the absence of the Mistress, to a Country Wench, that was newly come thither as a Servant, to take the Dish, and put some *Pice* in it, (that being the French Pronunciation, in broken English, for Spice.) The Wench imagining he bid her piss in it, set her flood-gate open, and *pic'd* it to the purpose, and so returned it. But he seeing no Spice, still call'd for some, not minding any thing else. When the Mistress coming in, said, How now, why don't you give the Gentleman what he asks for ? Indeed, Madam, said she, I have ; for I piss'd as much as I cou'd, and he is so unreasonable, as not to be contented with it

81.

A young Widow having buried an old Husband, pretends so great a love to his Memory, that she had his Image carv'd,

carv'd, and laid by her Side every Night; which she kissed and embraced, vowing perpetual Widow-hood. But her Maid, thinking this but Hypocrisie, brib'd by a brisk young Gallant, suffered him to take the place of the Image, as a more proper Bed-fellow for a brisk Woman: And to bed to him unwittingly the Widow went; but e're Morning, so far convinced her of the difference, that she was mightily pleased, ordering an extraordinary Dinner to entertain him: but the Maid complaining for want of Billets to make a Fire, she said, Burn old Simon, Burn old Simon, (so she call'd the Image, after her former Husband's Name,) for now I have done with him, and got a better Bed-fellow.

## 82.

A Widow returning from the burial of her Husband, all in Tears; you must know, an officious Neighbour offered her his Service, to hand her home; which she accepted, and by the way, began a needless Oration to comfort her; telling her withal, That he was a Widower, and at her devotion. Indeed Sir,

ght; Sir, *said she*) I thank you for your kind-  
 vings, but it is too late to make such a  
 Maid Proffer; had you done it a day sooner,  
 I should have accepted it, but I was  
 married privately this Morning, as not  
 being able to lye longer alone, for fear  
 of Spirits.

83.

An old Beldam being carry'd before  
 the Justice, for keeping a Bawdy-house,  
 endeavoured to deny and excuse it:  
 How, Huswife! *says the Justice*, have  
 you the impudence to deny it? I know  
 you do keep a Bawdy-house, and I'll  
 maintain it. At this the old Woman,  
 mistaking his meaning, took heart, and  
 dropping him a Court'sie, said, I thank  
 your Worship a hundred times, I want  
 such good Customers and Supporters as  
 you, to recover my great decay of  
 Trade, or I shall be ruin'd, as Times  
 goe. At this the Justice blush'd, and  
 the People laugh'd; yet, for the Con-  
 ceit's sake, remitted her Punishment.

84. A

A Country Gentleman being a Justice of Peace, having been highly offended by his Footman, resolv'd to have him corrected, without giving himself the trouble of doing it ; and therefore writ a Letter to the Keeper of the *Bridewell*, That he should, upon the receipt, take the Bearer of it, and give him severely the Correction of the House. This Letter he gave him to carry, and bring a speedy Answer back. Yet by the Direction, mistrusting some mischief, came to an Ale-house, where he found a lusty Tinker half drunk, and for Two Pots got him to carry it. The *Bridewell*-man, upon first sight, caused him to be stripp'd, saying, How durst you, Sirrah, abuse so worthy a Gentleman? Upon this, he deny'd he knew him, and told where he had the Letter. But all would not do, till he had Forty Lashes ; and then being let loose, ran to find out and kill the Fellow that had put the trick upon him : But Peell-garlick, upon notice, was rubb'd off ; and telling his Master how he had trick'd the Tinker, obtain'd his Pardon.

85.

A Fellow, comically dispos'd, having gotten a great many Horns in a Basket, cryed, *New Furniture, Rare Furniture.* Whereupon, a grave Citizen admiring what it should be, desir'd to see it; and thereupon said, Why, you comcomby Fool, think you any one is so mad, to buy such Ware? Yes, marry, I do, *reply'd he*; for though you are furnish'd, there are many, as wise as your self, that may have occasion for them.

86.

A Fellow running along the street, half out of breath, crying, *Fire ! Fire !* Nay, said the People, you had better cry Water, for it seems there is too much Fire already.

87.

A Man having bought a pair of Bucks-Horns, his Wife asked him, what he meant to do with them? Oh, *says he*, hang my Hat on them. And why upon

upon Horns, Husband? you might have done that, and have kept it upon your Head.

## 88.

A Bailiff clapping a Man on the Shoulder, said, *I Arrest you, Sir, for a Horse*, (meaning, for the Money he ow'd for a Horse.) Why, *reply'd the Defendant*, thou errant Coxcomb, thou art not, certainly, such a Fool as thou makest thy self? Pray look upon me again: What likeness can you see, that you should be so blockheaded, as to take me for a Horse? Then tripping up his heels, said, However, I'll shew you a Horse-trick; and after giving him two or three kicks, left him in the Kennel, and so march'd off.

## 89.

At a French University, they admit the Degree of *Doctor* to be taken, in lieu of a Summ of Money to supply certain Colleges, without considering their Learning and Abilities. One of which, thinking to punn upon the place, said merrily,



have merrily, That since he was made a  
 your Doctor, he was willing his Horse might  
 be commenced too, that being far from  
 great Towns, where many times he  
 met with Patients, he need not, having  
 his Horse with him, be at the trouble  
 the to send for another Physician, upon any  
 for a thing that required a Consult. That  
 y he may be done, *said the Prelocutor* ; for it  
 e Do is no such difficulty for us who have  
 ou are made an Ass a Doctor, to make an Horse  
 a ma one likewise.

90.

A brisk Widow having an Inn, bearing  
 the Sign of the *Maiden-Head*, left her  
 as a Dowry ; but there being a defective  
 and Title, she was Ejected: Wherefore, in  
 a pitiful Tone, she said, Now I find  
 there's Law, even against keeping of  
 Maiden-heads, for I have lost this Mai-  
 den-head by Law. Says one to her,  
 prithee, tell me, Did you take so on,  
 when you lost your other Maiden-head?  
 No, indeed, *said she*, I had rather have  
 lost that twenty times over ; for the  
 fruits of that Maiden-head I can shew  
 still, but this is gone from me for ever.

91. A.

91.

A Man being to get Gossips for the Christning of his Wife's Child, told her, He had pitch'd upon such a One, who, by the Neighbours, was thought to be more than ordinarily familiar with her. At which, lifting up her Hands, she cry'd out, O the Father ! that you should think of him !

92.

A Shentleman of *Wales*, seeing one with a large Pomkin in his hand, said, *Was beseech bur, tell bur what has bur got there ?* Why, a Mare's Egg, you Fool you, (reply'd the other.) *And what bur get a Coult out of it, was think bur ?* Yes, (reply'd the other.) *Then bur want one, if bur will sell bur one ?* Yes, (said the other.) *Then, Cot, Cot, bur will give bur a Groat for it ?* Content, (said the other.) So the Money was laid down, and Pomkin deliver'd, and the Welsh-man trudg'd up a Hill with it, but the Stalk breaking, it fell; and rowling down, struck against a Bush

out of which started a Hare; which the Cambrio-Britain seeing, and thinking his Mare's Egg had brought forth, run after her, crying, *Stop hur Colt, stop hur Colt*; but Puss not minding his Clamour, kept on her way, and the Pomkin rolling into the Thicket, lay undiscovered; so that to his great fretting and disappointment, he went home discontented without either, to tell the strange Adventure.

93.

A Physitian having sent for a Farrier, to blood and drench his Horse, and offering him Money; No, *says the Farrier*, we are Brothers in our Practice, and must take no Fees of one another, only my desire is, That when I have occasion for you, you would deal as sincerely by me, as I have done by your Horse.

94.

A young Gentlewoman, of great Fortune, being Married, and the first and second Year no Child in likelihood, her Mother made strict Inquiry, where the

the Defect lay ; and upon her discovery, after many blushings, and hesitations, that it was in the Husband, she prevailed with her to sue out a Divorce : And the young Lady coming to shew her Reasons, desired, for Modesty's sake, she might write them, which was allowed ; and attempting it, being told there was no Ink in her Pen, Why truly, *said she*, that is my Case, and you have saved me the Labour, by finding out what I designed to write.

## 95.

A drunken Tinker, having told, in a degrading way, That he had often worked at such a Gentleman's House, but that he kept such a penurious watch over his Servants, they durst not give him a draught of Drink. The Gentleman being displeased at this, ordered a Butt of Stout, that stood an end, to have the upper Head taken out, and Enquiry to be made for this smutty Messenger, to come and mend some Copper-pers ; and being found, accordingly he came : when being lead into the Cellar, Two lusty Fellows stript him, and mitt

set him in the Liquor up to the Chin;  
 then came the Gentleman with his  
 drawn Sword, saying, *as if in an angry*  
 *mood*, Sirrah, since you have thus dis-  
 graced me, drink up this Butt, or off  
 goes your Head (the Fellow humbly  
 begged his Pardon, but that would not  
 do) for seeing you disobey my Orders,  
 I have at you; then whipping his Sword  
 over the Top of the Cask, down dived  
 the Tinker, to avoid the coming Blow;  
 and having often compelled him to it,  
 till almost drowned in the strong Drink,  
 he bid him beware how he complained  
 for Liquor at his House another time.  
 Nay, truly Sir, *said he*, I never will;  
 for now I have had too much.

## 96.

A young Gentlewoman having new-  
 ly buried her Husband, who left her a  
 considerable Estate, the Cobler of the  
 d. B. on this, resolving to try his  
 Met. put on his Roast-meat Cloaths,  
 and desired to speak with her about Bu-  
 gly Affairs, that nearly concerned her Per-  
 son; and with some difficulty, being ad-  
 mitted, say'd, Madam, understanding  
 you

72      England's merry Jester ; Or,  
you are a Widow, and I a Widower, I  
come to offer my Service to you : For  
what ? *said she*, Why, in good troth re-  
*ply'd he*) to make you a Husband. A  
way filthy Fellow! *said she*, get you  
gone, or I shall call up my Servants to  
kick you down Stairs for your Impu-  
dence. Nay Madam, *reply'd he*, be not  
Angry, for I cou'd but ask you, and if  
you won't, another will.

97.

Some married Persons going by the  
place , where the Royal Oak Lottery  
was kept, a Motion was made, to go  
in and try their Luck : *says one*, None  
but Cuckolds have any at Gaming ; *says*  
*his Wife*, However, Husband try, for I  
am confident you cannot miss of a  
good Chance.

98.

A soft headed Gentleman, of a good  
Estate, having his Child put to Nurse  
by the order of his Wife, in his Absence,  
would needs go to see how the Child  
throve ; and finding the Nurse to be  
married

married Woman, grew out of humour, and said, It was fit a Virgin, Chamber-Maid Nurses, and not Marry'd Nurses, should have the suckling of Gentlemens Children; for they consequently have the best Milk: giving his Reason, That Virgin-Milk must be as pure as Virgin-Honey, or Pullets Eggs: And such a one he would provide. Alas, Sir, said she, there are none such to be found amongst us simple People in the Countrey; but if you go to the *Intelligence Offices in London*, you may have a Wet-Chamber-Maid recommended to you, but I hardly believe you will find a Virgin there that gives suck.

99.

A Gentleman who had a monstrous great Nose, coming often to Dine at a Nobleman's who kept a Fool, the Fool would be always staring and sneering at his Nose, See there! See there! What a Nose that Man has! Which sometimes occasioned laughter in the Company, but made the Owner of the great Nose fret, though he could not tell how to help himself. His Business lying frequently

E  
quently



quently here, one day met the Fool privately, and told him, He would give him Sixpence, if he'd promise to twine him with his great Nose no more. The Fool promised he would be his Friend in it, and so they parted. But the Gentleman sitting at Dinner, when time came, as usual, in comes the Fool, and thinking to do the Gentleman a Courtesie, by retracting what he had said cry'd out, That Man has no Nose at all No Nose at all! No Nose at all! and so he continued bawling; which occasion'd more laughter than before.

## 100.

These sort of Fools are sometime very malicious, and bloodily revengeful, for any Affronts they receive: As a poor Fellow, a Carpenter, once sadly experienced, who having anger'd a Nobleman's Fool, by throwing Water in his Face, he kept his Revenge to himself, but watched an Opportunity. The Man not thinking any harm, after Dinner, it being hot Weather, lay at his length, upon a Log, a-sleep, with his Axe by him; with which the Fool being

being a sturdy Fellow, with one strong  
 blow struck off his Head, and hid it in  
 the Saw-dust: Then running in a doors,  
 he fell into a fit of laughter, till he dri-  
 vel'd again: And being ask'd why he  
 did so? Oh! *said he*, the bravest funn  
 that ever you heard of. What is that,  
*sack*, *said one of the Servants*? Why,  
*reply'd he*, I laugh to think, when the  
 Carpenter wakes, how like a Fool he'll  
 look without his Head, and lose his Af-  
 ternoon's work, to find it out where I  
 have hid it.

## 101.

A Country Fellow, ditching by the  
 Way-side, happen'd, as some Persons  
 were riding along, to see a Hundred  
 Pound Bag drop out of a Portmantua;  
 which he carefully took up and carry'd  
 to his Wife, without opening. She  
 knowing him to be a soft-headed Fellow,  
 and fearing he would discover it, threw  
 it aside, saying, What d' yee bring this  
 Pudding-bag of Dirt to me for? you  
 might have as well have stopp'd a gap  
 with it. Truly, Sweet-heart, *says he*, I  
 found it, and thought it might have  
 been

76 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
been worth something ; but if it ben't,  
it is but my labour-lost. Come, Come,  
*says she*, you are simple, and must go  
to School, to learn to Read and Write,  
and then you may get into a better Em-  
ployment. E'en what you will, Sweet-  
heart, *said he* ; and so the old Blade was  
sent to learn his Horn-book ; till by the  
Childrens laughing at him, he grew  
weary of it, and returned to his former  
Business. The Parties who had lost the  
Money, upon their return from *London*,  
enquired all along the Road, if any such  
Bag was taken up ; and remembering  
they had seen this Man at work, asked  
him. Who answered, Yes ; and his  
Wife had it at home. So home they  
went with him : But the Woman stiffly  
deny'd it, saying, He was foolish and  
phrensil, and sometimes talk'd idly,  
and therefore they ought not to give cre-  
dit to what he said. But they insisting  
on it, she desir'd them to ask him when  
it was that he found it ? Why, *reply'd he*  
among all the days of the year, I  
well remember, it was the day before  
he first went to School. At this they  
fell a laughing, and thinking indeed  
he was crack-brain'd, departed, satis-

en't, fied with what the Woman had told  
me, them.

102.

A Utterer having lost an Hundred Pounds, put out Ten Pounds Reward for any that should bring it him. A tender-conscienc'd Man finding it, brought it to him, demanding the Ten Pounds. Then, to baffle him, he alledg'd, there was a Hundred and Ten Pounds in the Bag, when lost ; but upon breaking-open the Seal, there appearing no more than an Hundred. The Man Arrested him for his Promise ; and it coming to be Try'd before a Judge of *Nisi Prius*, it appearing the Seal had not been broken-open, nor the Bag ripp'd, says the Judge to the Defendant, The Bag you lost had a Hundred and Ten Pounds in it, you say ? Yes, My Lord, *said he*. Then, *reply'd the Judge*, according to the Evidence given in Court, this cannot be your Money, for here was but a Hundred Pounds ; therefore the Plaintiff must keep it till the true Owner comes, and you must look for your Hundred and Ten Pounds where you can find it.

103.

A weighty Cause coming before a corrupt Judge, he took Bribes on both Sides : One gave him a Coach, and the other a pair of fine Horses ; so that he that gave the Horses, had the Cause : Oh, Coach ! *then said the other,* 'thou art gone the wrong way ! *Said the Defendant,* How could you expect otherwise ? for you might well think, where my Horses draw, your Coach must follow.

104.

A foolish Astrologer being Jealous of his Wife, not without reason, resolv'd to try, by his Art, whether he was a Cuckold, or no. Of which her Gallant hearing, sent him these Lines :

*Star-gazing Fool ! thou from the Signs  
would'st see,  
And Planets Face, what thy Wife's Deal-  
ings be !  
She does her Work below, where ne'er Sun  
pries ;  
And though she's light, she mounts not to the  
Skies ;*

'Cause

'Cause she's kept down by me. If in the  
Sphere,

Thou Venus see, thou think'st thy Wife is  
there :

Or if the Bull, or Aries, thou do'st see,

Thou think'st they point their Horns direct  
at thee.

Fool ! keep at home, while thou abroad  
do'st go,

In Imitation, thy Wife's Legs do so :

And when thou gazest in the Skies, to know  
Her Works, she do's ev'n what she please  
below.

305.

A Gentleman whose Mistress, with  
Vows and Protestations, had assur'd  
him a lasting Love and Constancy :  
yet finding, through her Dissimulation,  
that she was fickle and wavering ; to  
shew the little Credit he gave to her Pro-  
testations, wrote these Lines :

My Mistress saith, She'll marry none but me,

Tho' Jove himself should force her unto it :

But Womens Words unto their Lovers, be

So firm, they may in Wind or Waves be  
writ.

106.

X Two Fellows reeling, drunk, fell into a Gravel-Pit ; and imagining they fell into the Trap-door of a Cellar, one cry'd, Ho ! *Jack!* where are you ? Why, *said he*, I am searching about to find the Taps, that I may let all the Drink out. That's well done, *says t'other*; and I am clambering up, to pull down the Sign : We'll teach 'em to leave their Cellar-door open, at this time of Night, to catch Travellers.

107.

A Country 'Squire coming up to Town, and being at a Tavern among his Acquaintance, and complained he had had his Pocket pick'd in a Crowd, as he came along. Says the Country Blade, I defie any one to pick mine ; for I always carry my Hands in 'em. I'll wager a Guinea, to be spent, *says another*, that you shall not go to *Smithfield-Rounds*, but you shall lose your Wager. Done, *said he*. And so, while they drunk about, the Party sent for  
Two



Two notable Proficients in the Mystery of Diving and Sharping, gave 'em a sight of our Country 'Squire, told them the way he was to go, and that he purposed to carry in his Mouth a Broad-Piece of Gold, mark'd with a (W.) This will be hard to get: however, *said they*, we'll try our Skill: and so being promised a Crown, and Indemnity, they watch'd his setting off, and followed him. Coming to the ~~road~~, while he stood looking about, one of them pull'd out a Handkerchief, and, as by chance, scatter'd some ~~money~~ and Farthings: Thereupon, crying he was undone, if they stood not by him to prevent a Scramble! Our Country-man, among the rest, was busie, and pick'd up some; which he gave him. Then his Comrade asked him if he had all? No indeed, *said he*, I want a Broad-piece of Gold, that I highly prize, because it was given me by my Grand-mother, upon her Death bead! Why, *said the other*, I saw this Country-man put it into his Mouth. Then said he, if it be mine, it is mark'd with a (W.) The Country 'Squire deny'd not that he had such a Piece, but said it was his own.

own: however, the Rabble gathering about him, and crying out, Knock him on the Head, for a Rogue! he was forc'd to deliver it. So away the two Sharpers went, and deliver'd it to the Party that had set them at work; who gave them the promis'd Reward. At last, in came our Country Blade very melancholy, owned his Wager lost, and said, He fear'd, if he stay'd long in *London*, he should have his Teeth stole out of his Head, at this rate: therefore he would down into the Country again, where there was no Cheating but among Great Men and Jockeys at Horse-Races, and Ladies at Cards.

108.

One having lost a Watch, and coming into the Company of an arch Poet, upon telling his lamentable Disaster, One desir'd a Verse or two to be made on it, as a *Memento* to others: Which run thus:

All you that Watches have, this do,  
Pocket your Watch, and watch your Pocket too.

.nwo-

109. One

One following a Gentlewoman, and passing her, turn'd back to look in her Face, and said, Madam, you are exceeding Handsome, I wish, Sir, *said she*, without wronging my Judgment, I could return you the like Complement. A Pox take your Scruples! *reply'd he*; Why can't you tell a Lye for me, as well as I have told one for you?

A Gentlewoman desiring to know of a Physitian, Whether the Milk of a Cow might not do as well as Asses Milk, so much cry'd up, upon that account? Truly, *said he*, every thing ought to have Milk of its Kind; my Patients ought to have Asses Milk: but if any other Doctor has Calves to his Patients, Cows Milk is proper.

A noted Bawd being sent to *Bridewell*, for occasioning the debauchery of a young

young Gentlewoman, by enticing her to the lascivious Embraces of a Spark, for a Summ of Money, she fell sick and died there, leaving much Wealth behind her, ordering, by her Last Will, Five Guinea's for a Funeral Sermon ; in the Conclusion of which, the Minister was to give her a good Character. But not knowing what to say of her who had lead so leud a Life, lest he should be banter'd upon, as one of her Customers, he got a Stranger to Preach : Who, after Sermon, said, It is, I doubt not, expected, but that I should say something in behalf of the Party deceased : All that can be said, is, She was Born well, Brought-up well, Liv'd well, and Dy'd well : being born at *Shadwell*, brought-up at *Camberwell*, living a House-keeper at *Clerkenwell* ; and, lastly, my Beloved, dying in *Bridewell*.

II 2.

An ignorant Country Lad being c'ited, among the rest of the Parish-Children, upon a Visitation, to be Catechized ; after some other had answered, the Commandments came to his turn to repeat :

peat: And being asked, how many there were? he stood gaping, as if he had heard Dutch spoken. What! *said the Minister*, Can a Fellow of your Age be ignorant of this Question? I thought you had known them, and kept them too? No indeed; *reply'd he, very seriously*, I never kept any thing in my life, but my Father's Sheep.

113.

A Country Woman having sent her Son with a Basket of Medlers, to a Lady that was her Landlady; he, though very clownish, thought, however, to bestow a Complement upon so fine a Woman, at the delivery, said, Forsooth, my Mother has sent you a whole Peck of Open-Arses; but let me tell you, by the way, if you don't keep them till they are as rotten as a Turd, they will not be worth a Fart. The Lady smiling at his Manners, gave him a Shilling. Soon after, the Mother came with her Rent; and being sat at Dinner, the Lady was telling her what a pretty Boy she had, but withal, very Clownish, and told her likewise what he had said. Was he so  
Unman-

Unmannerly, notwithstanding the good Breeding I have bestow'd on my self, (says the Woman, starting up in a Rage,) Ne'er stir! Madam, if I don't go home and whip the Rascal till he beshits himself agen! This turn'd some squeamish Stomachs; but the Lady smiling at it, said, No, No, you shall not beat him; for I see he was no better taught.

114.

A Lady having cast a Person at Law, who contended with her for great a part of her Estate, in Joy for her Success, invited her Tenants to a splendid Dinner; and telling them the cause of it, said, You see, my honest Neighbours, my Right has, at last, taken place, and my Adversary is frustrated of his unjust Expectations. Upon this, up starts a blunt Country, and thinking to pass a Complement, said, Madam, I always thought he took the wrong Sow by the Ear, when he meddl'd with your Ladyship.

and being sat at Dinner the Lady had said, had not you wrong'd a poor fellow, telling her what a pretty boy the had, and told her very clownish, and told her what he had said. I 15. Some  
-namU

115.

Some Gentlemen coming into an Inn, in *London*, in cold Weather, and perceiving the Carriers and Porters had wedged in the Fire, that they could not come at it; One wink'd at the Hostler, and bid him fetch Half of Peck of Oysters, and give them to his Horse. At this some star'd, and others laugh'd. Why, Good Fellows, *said he*, if you knew what kind of Horse mine it, you would not think it strange; for he's a Sea-Horse, and only feeds upon Shell-Fish. At this they all start up, and run to see him, as some strange Wonder; whilst the Gentleman and his Companions possessed their warm Places, and left them in the Cold, to fret at their folly, in being so dexterously outwitted.

116.

A Man that had marry'd a bitter scolding Wife, that worry'd him almost out of his Life, being frighted one Evening, as he was coming home, by a Phantom,



Phantom, or Spirit, which, as it drew nigher, put him into a sweating and trembling Condition, Oh! *said he*, if thou art a Good Spirit, thou wilt do poor Mortals no Injury; but if thou art a Bad One, and belongest to the Devil, there is all the reason in the world thou should'st spare me, because I am so nearly related to thy Master, as having but newly marry'd his Sister.

117.

**A Fellow** suspecting himself to be a Cuckold, resolved, by a Stratagem, to get Confession of it from his Wife; and thereupon getting a great many Cocks Spurs, with some Glew, demanded the Question? But she deny'd it. Well, *said he*, for all this, I know I am so; and I have been with a Cunning-Man about it, and he has found out, that you have play'd false with me once, and see here thereupon a Horn risen on my Fore-head; and he tells me, next time I come, he will raise as many Horns, by his Art, to upbraid you, as the times you have been false to my Bed. O dear Husband! *said she*, don't go to him no more,

more, lest you become a Monster all over.

118.

An old Woman, of Fourscore, having marry'd a lusty Fellow of Five and twenty; and he using her scurvily, which made her crawl to a Justice's, to make her Complaint, and get a Warrant, in order to Bind him over to his Good-behaviour: Where she was reprov'd, for being so foolish to marry in her Old Age, when she ought to have minded better things, as having one Foot in the Grave. What! *reply'd she, very angrily,* wou'd you have me turn Whore?

119.

A Fellow having Indicted a Butcher of *Picadilly*, at the *Old-Baily*, for stealing his Sow, produced the Sow's Head, which was found in his Powdering-Tub, as an Evidence of the Fact. Says the Court, Did you shew this to any body, as soon as you found it? Yes, (says the Fellow, mistaking by speaking too eagerly, I carry'd the Justice's Head before

90 England's merry Jester; Or,  
fore the Sow, and there the Prisoner  
confess'd the Fact.

120.

A Country Fellow driving a Team,  
and the Fore-horse being very fat, the  
rest lean, two Lawyers overtaking him,  
one said to the other, Let us joak upon  
this Fellow? A Match (said the other.)  
Good Fellow, *says the former*, what is  
the reason that your Fore-Horse is so  
plum, and full of flesh, and all the rest  
are of *Pharaoh's lean Kine*? O, Sir!  
*says he*, he is the Lawyer, and the rest  
are the Clients.

121.


X A Welsh-man having sold a great  
Estate in the Mountains, and in the Val-  
leys, came up to *London* with a full  
Purse; and seeing a Gentleman give Five  
Pounds for a Hawk, cheapned and  
bought one at the same price, and im-  
mediately rung off his Neck. And be-  
ing ask'd the Reason for so doing? He  
reply'd, *Plut*, was let *hur English-men*  
*know hur was a Sbentleman of Wales*, and

cou'd afford to eat as good a Bird as the best of 'em all.


122.

A Spark that lodg'd in a House where there was a brisk Landlady, whose Husband was none of the ablest in Performance ; he coming into her Chamber, one day, in the absence of the Good-Man, said, He hoped she would be kind to him ? Why, when, *said she*, was I ever otherwise ? Ay, but I mean, *said he*, in another manner ? Why, truly, this is the first time you ever ask'd me, and I should be uncivil, to refuse your first Request. This coming briskness dashed the Gallant out of countenance, and made him willing to be off agen, as at that time not well provided ; and thinking, by this means to do it, *said*, Madam, One thing I'll barr. What's that ? *said she*. Why, *reply'd he*, That you shall not cry-out ? Puh ! *reply'd she*, trouble not your self about that ; but if you barr any thing, barr the Door, to prevent a Surprize.

123.

 A Country Girl, newly come to a London-Service, looking over the Shoulders of some that were at Cards ; a Man that was hem'd in, said, Prithee, Sweet-heart, go into the Yard and make Water for me, for I can't get out. To which the harmless Wench simply reply'd, Truly, Sir I can't do it now ; for I just made Water in the Back-Room : but when I have a Need agen, I'll do't for you, with all my heart.

124.

 A lusty Country Lass, gathering Apples, venturing too far, and over-reaching her self, slipp'd her Hold, and dropt with her Legs between the Forks of a Bough ; which stripp'd up her Cloaths, that she hung naked to the Navel, kicking and sprawling, and crying out for Help. A Fellow that was Thrashing, ran immediately to relieve her, setting the Ladder to that Bough : But as he was going up, what through fear, shame, and struggling to unloose her self, her  
Flood-

Flood-gate burst open, whil'st she cry'd out, Don't look, *Harry* ! Don't look, *Harry* ! 'Zuz' and fut' ! Look ! quo'thee ? why, thou hast so blinded me with Urine, that I can hardly find my way to thee.

125.


A Miller having a good quantity of Corn come to be Ground, in his absence ; when he came home, with his Dish in his Hand, demanded, who had taken Toll ? That have I, said the Wife : And I, said the Boy : And I, said the Maid. Well, said he, I shall believe ne'er a Rogue nor Whore of you all : for this is such a Lying Age, that a Man ought not to believe any thing but what he sees with his own Eyes ; therefore, to be upon sure grounds, I'll take it my self.

126.

A Man and a Woman, after hot Words, falling together by the Ears in the Street, a great Crowd was gathered about them : Among the rest, an Old Woman

Woman crowded in, to know what was the occasion of that Tumult? and desir'd a man that stood by her, to inform her how it began? You're a Whore! *says he* : And you're a Rogue, *reply'd she*, to call me Whore. Why, e'en so, Mother, *said he*, the Quarrel began.

127.

Two Women falling out in *Kent-street*, after many hard Words had pass'd on both Sides, *says one*, You had not only a Great-Belly when you was Married, but have made your Husband a Cuckold divers times since. The Man, who was a Taylor, and at work in a Garret cross the way, hearing this, could hold no longer, but put his Head out of the Window; and calling aloud, What's that she says, Sweet-heart? Why, my Dear, *reply'd his Wife*, she says you're a Cuckold. Do's she so, *said he*? Had she call'd me Ass, or Puppy, or any such sociable Creature, I cou'd have borne it; but this Reflexion is insufferable: therefore, Come up presently; carry my best Cloak to the Broaker's, and pawn it for Ten Groats; I'll have a War-



a Warrant for her, and ruine her, whatever betides me.

128.

A Journey-man and the Man of the House's Sister being very intimate, had often private Conversation when the rest were a bed ; and one Night, among other gamesome Frollicks, a large Smock hanging upon the Line by the Fire, the Man handling it, said, VVhose Shift is this, Mrs. Sarah ? VVhy, 'tis mine, *reply'd she*. Indeed, *said he*, you are very extravagant ; half the Holland would have serv'd. No indeed, *reply'd she*, it would not ; for it is never a whit to wide, as the Fashion is now. VVhy, *said he*, I'll wager you a Treat of Ten Shilling, it is big enough for us both, if our Cloaths were off ? Done ! *said she* ; and immediately they stripp'd. (it not being the first time they had been so, upon other Occasions ; ) but forcibly thrusting their Arms streight in the Sleeves, (tho' the Wager was yielded,) they could not get them out agen, but resolved to tear one of the Sleeves upon a Tenter-hook belonging to the Shelf where

where the Pewter stood : in order to which, they got upon a Joynt-stool, and having fasten'd the Linnen, jump'd down, and pull'd after them the Shelf, and all the Pewter. This unlucky Accident very much surpriz'd 'em ; and no less the Master, and the rest of the Family, who imagining there were Thieves in the House, arm'd themselves accordingly with Spits, Forks, Tongs, and such like Weapons ; the Master, as Captain, marching in the Front, saying to the others, Come, Boys, be of good Courage, you know the old Saying, *One honest Man is stouter than Ten Thieves* ; Come on, I say ; for I question not but we shall quickly oblige them to yield, when one they perceive our Courage and Resolution. Thus marching down the Stairs, as resolute as an Army of Soldiers at the besieging of a City, upon the Promise of Free-Plunder, they search'd first in one Room, then in another, still meeting with nothing that might oppose them ; but at length, coming into the Room where the Pewter was wont to stand, instead of taking the Game they hunted for, they were more surpris'd than before,

at the sight of this unexpected and seemingly monstrous Object, not knowing what to make on't, considering they had unluckily put out the Candle in their striving to get out of the Smock, but only they might discern something all white, with Two Heads, and Four Legs moving upon the floor, by the small light which the Fire gave them: This struck such a Terror upon them all, that none of 'em durst attempt to approach nigh it. All this while our entangl'd Couple lay struggling, and swearing on the ground, not daring, through fear and shame, to make themselves known to their affrighted Beholders: Till the Master of the House, being more couragious than the rest, boldly resolv'd to discover what it was; and coming towards 'em, was about to stick the Spit which he had in his Hand thorough the Body of this supposed Monster; but the Woman perceiving the up-lifting of his Hand, screamed out, saying, Oh, Brother! Mercy! Mercy, for Heav'n's sake! it is I, it is I, your distressed Sister, and unfortunate Journey-man, *Richard*, who innocently sporting together, have

F

most

most unhappily twined our selves in this manner; out of which it is impossible for us to get free, without some Assistance from your helping Hand: therefore, I beseech you, as a tender Brother, have some Compassion for your miserable Sister, and her unhappy Companion, in the Condition we are now in, and our utmost Endeavours shall be, for the future, to retaliate your Kindness in the highest manner we shall ever be capable of performing; (the Fellow groaning and sighing all the while, not speaking one word for himself, but expecting to be sent immediately into the other World, for the Affront put upon his Master, in being so over-familiar with his Sister.) Her Brother starting, to hear his Sister's Voice, fancy'd himself to have been in a Dream, by reason he perceiv'd some small familiarity betwixt them at other times: But her repeated Importunities and Crying out, soon convinc'd him of the Reality of what he before but barely imagin'd. And considering withal, what an Odium their Family would undergo, first turn'd his Sister upon the Man, resolving at once to pin them both to the ground with

with his Spit; and was just ready to pierce it through their Bodies, had not another of the Family, who perceived now the worst of the Danger, fortunately stepp'd in, and stopping his Hand, prevented the fatal stroke, and interceded for their Pardon. The Brother, at first, could not easily be appeased; but his Passion abating, and considering, the best way would be, to keep it as private as they could from the Ears of their Neighbours, he promised to unloose them; but with this *proviso*, That they should tye themselves faster by a Matrimonial Conjunction, and by that means prevent the Scandal which unavoidably would be brought upon their Family. To this they very joyful consented; and lovingly Kissing as they lay on the ground, swore Constancy and Fidelity to each other, and in a few days after were marry'd accordingly, and liv'd very happily together for many years, but vow'd never to get both at once into the Smock agen.

A Gentleman coming along the Road, and seeing a blind Man carrying a Cripple on his Back, and being Poetically given, thus descanted on them :

*How happily Fate hath together join'd ;  
Two feeble Men ! one Lame, the other Blind !  
The Blind Man bears the Lame, the Lame  
supplies,  
By his Direction, t'other's want of Eyes.  
See what the urging power of Need can do !  
It makes the Blind to see, the Lame to go.*

A company of pretended Cripples, with counterfeit Sores, false Legs and Arms, sitting begging at the bottom of a Hill where a Country Fair was kept ; a mad Fellow, to try an Experiment, crying, *Have among you, Blind Harpers !* rowled down a Garden Rowling-stone, directly aimed at them. But they foreseeing the danger, cut the Strings that tied up their true Legs, and fell to scampering, as nimbly as Boys of sixteen.

## 131.

A Gentleman seeing a Fellow a  
 Louising himself underneath a Hedge,  
 in a miserable tatter'd Condition;  
 Friend, *says he*, How come you to be  
 in this poor Equipage, seeing you have  
 such abundance of live Cattle to dispose  
 of? Alas! Sir, *reply'd he*, that is my  
 misfortune: for although I have a large  
 Stock, I'm forc'd to keep it in my own  
 Hands, for want of a Chapman; and  
 shall be constrained to do so still, unless  
 your Worship will be pleas'd to take  
 them off, at reasonable Rates.

## 132.

A merry Poet having marry'd a  
 shrew'd Wife, soon repented his Bar-  
 gain, and complained; and thus fabled:

*The Country People once a Wolf did take,  
 Which of their Sheep and Lambs did havock  
 make;*

*To many Deaths to Judge him they began,  
 Till starting up, a newly marry'd Man*



102 England's merry Jester; Or,

Lay by: said he, Your Fire, Sword, Guns  
and Whips,

These are light Torture; I have one out-  
strips

All those: If you would punish him to'th Life,  
Fit for his Crimes, Then let him wed a Wife.

133.

A Country Gentleman have mar-  
ry'd a rich Citizen's Daughter, she car-  
ried down a large Monkey with her:  
which being chained at the Parlour-door,  
an Old Woman who was his Tenant,  
coming to speak with him, took it for  
his Page, and making a reverend  
Court'sie, said, Pray, young Gentle-  
man, Is your Master within? At  
which Pugg grinn'd and chatter'd.  
Why truly, said she, this is very un-  
civil, to flout at a Woman that is old  
enough to be your Mother.

134.

A Welsh-man coming to London, and  
seeing a Jackanapes sitting behind the  
Counter, in a Shop, went in, putting  
off his Hat, and desired hur to give  
hur

hur a Groat and Eight Tokens for Half a Shilling. The Jackanapes took the Money, and whip'd it into the Chink, and then sat him down again very gravely. The Welsh-man making a clamour for his *shange*, the Master came out, and sternly demanded, Whether he came to rob his Shop, or not? No, (reply'd he,) but hur come to *shange* Half a Shilling. Where is it? (said the Master of the Shop.) Why (reply'd *Shen ap Shinkin*) hur gif it to hur aged Father here, and hur have put it into that Hole. The Shop-keeper laughing at this, gave him Six-pence, without further Enquiry, and so dismiss him.

## 135.

A Fellow for Forgery, being adjudged to lose his Ears, and the Hangman, upon search missing them, said, Thou art an errant Cheat; for thou hast not only deceived others, but even me, who am the very Hand of Justice. Why Block-head, (said he,) Am I bound to find every Rascal Ears to cut off, *ad infinitum*?

136.

A Man and his Wife falling out, among other Reproachss, she clapping her Hands, cry'd, Ah, you Cuckoldly Rogue! Hufwife (said he) if I am a Cuckold, how the Devil came you to know it?

137.

A Man riding along a Road that passed through a Corn-Field, said to a Swinherd, You have a troublesome sort of Cattle to deal withal. Yes truly (said the Swinherd) they are so, and know not a Letter but what I teach them. Why (said the other) do they understand Letters? I can't tell that, (again reply'd the Swinherd,) they understand my Instructions well enough, and one another too. Why (said the Traveller,) What says that Hog that is pressed by the other? Alas, poor Soul! (reply'd the Swinherd,) he bids him lye further off, and complains that he hurts his Shoulder. Why truly (said the Man) thou art the first Hog School-Master I ever

ever met with, in all the Travels of my whole Life.

138.

A Man commending his Wife, for the great Love she bore him, another would not believe it. Why (said he) it evidently appears in this; As soon as I rise, she takes a pleasure to remove into the very place where I have lain. Ay (said the other) that makes it plainly appear, that she loves your Absence better than your Company.

139.

A conceited Spark, who would be often thrusting himself into Ladies Companies, one day bragging of the Favour they allow'd him, and that they were proud to accept of his Favours, frequently begging one thing or other of him. This, Sir, (said an arch Wag that sat by,) is very true; for I my self have heard them intreat, that you would bestow your very Absence on them.

X A Man and his Wife having agreed in bed, in a cold Night, That whoever spoke first, should arise and shut the Door, which they had accidentally left open: In the mean while, a rambling Fellow, that was shut out of his Lodging, and a little in drink, came reeling in; and finding a Bed, crept in, the two Parties lying all the while silent: but by and by the Husband perceiving how it was with his Wife, could hold no longer, but said, Why do you suffer this? O Husband! (reply'd she,) you have spoken first, therefore you must rise and shut the Door.

A Youngster newly come from the University, who had not sown his wild Oats, being put into a small Living in the Country; long he had not been there, but a Complaint was made by a precise *Non Con*, That he had play'd at Cudgels behind the Church, on a Sunday, after Sermon. His Patron check'd him highly

highly for it, telling him, the Scandal reflected upon himself, for placing such a One in the Cure. Why, Sir, (reply'd he,) what would you have me do? I am placed over a Company of Block-headed People, that forget all that I say to them, before they get out of the Church-yard; therefore seeing Words are not of force sufficient to penetrate their thick Skulls, I could consider of no better way, than to beat my Instructions into their Heads, that they might carry them home in their remembrance, and edifie accordingly.

## 142.

An arch Spark being carried before a Justice who was none of the wisest, for running his Sword thorough a Tanner's Dog, that breaking out of the yard, assaulted him as he was walking by the Door. Sirrah! (said the Justice,) How durst you kill this honest Man's Dog? you, no doubt, have a design to rob the House. No indeed, Sir, not I; but I'll show you how it was (said he :) The Dog leaped over the Pails, and came running full at me, as I do at you, with

108 England's merry Jester; Or,

4 Bough, Wough, Wough; and hereupon the Justice, being troubled with the Gout, and sitting in a Chair, he quite over-threw him, Chair and all: Whereupon he cried out, Oh! this murdering Rogue has kill'd me! Make his *Mittimus*, and send him to Goal; I'll have him hang'd, whatever comes on't. By this time he was helped up, and a little recovered; Come, Sirrah! (says he,) What is your Name? So and so (said the Gentleman, telling him what his Name was.) Why (said the Justice) that is My Lord such a one's Name. True, Sir, (reply'd the other,) and I am the Man. Oh! are you so? then I crave your Mercy, dear Sir, and the case is alter'd, (said the Justice;) and turning to the Tanner, with a very stern Countenance, Sirrah! (says he,) How durst you let your Dog loose, to fly upon such a worthy Gentleman? Come, come, I'll teach you to take more care another time; Make his *Mittimus*, and send him to Goal. And accordingly he had been committed, had not the Gentleman in his Generosity excus'd him.



143.

A Woman at *Wapping* having lost some trivial Matters, was in a great hurry for her Hood and Scarf, to go to a Woman that profess'd the Art of *Astrology* (you must needs know.) Which a Boy about Eight or Nine Years old seeing, said, Where are you running in such haste? Why (said she) to the Wise Woman. Oh, Mother! (reply'd the Boy,) then, good now, let me go with yee; for I never saw a VVise VWoman in my life, as yet.

144.

A Young Gentlewoman being forced, by the rigour of her Parents, into the Arms of an Old Man, for a great Estate, and frustrated of marrying One to whom she had given her Promise; the two Lovers, however, met privately, and had sundry Enjoyments; but at last, the jealous old Blade, by the Spies he had set, intrapp'd them: but they were so far from being 'frighted, that they boldly justified the Action, saying, They  
were,

110 England's metry Jester ; Or,  
were, in Conscience, before God, Man  
and VVife. This vexed the Miser to  
the Heart ; but not daring to demand  
Satisfaction with his Sword, he resolv'd  
to have it by Law, and accordingly Ar-  
rested the Gentleman for a 1000 l.  
Damages. But upon the Tryal, the  
Gentleman, who was well belov'd, had  
so many Friends in the Jury, that upon  
the return of the Verdict, they brought  
in only a Mark Damage for the Plain-  
tiff. At which falling into a great rage,  
VVell (says he) Gentlemen, this is  
monstrous strange, that having proved  
my self a Cuckold upon Record, you  
should give me but a Mark ! and so  
flinging out of the Court, said, I pray  
God that all your VVives may mark  
you as shamefully as mine has done me ;  
and may your Horns be as long as Bar-  
ber's Poles.

145.

A conceited Fop having dressed him-  
self very gay, and being with his Mi-  
stress, often peep'd in the Glass, and  
careen'd his VVig ; then strutting to-  
wards her, said, Madam, VVho do you  
think

think is the prettiest Man you ever saw? (imagining she would point out himself;) but on the contrary, Truly, Sir, (said she,) the Man that is the most unlike you, of all Men living.

146.

Two Persons contending about Singing, a Person whom they appointed to decide the Matter pretending to have Skill, but indeed had none, giving his Verdict apparently in the wrong: the injur'd Gentleman said, Now, Sir, I will tell you a Story: Once upon a time, when Birds and Beasts could speak, a Cuckow and a Nightingale contended who sung sweetest, or gave the best content to their Auditors; but not agreeing, it was put to the next Passenger to decide; which unluckily happen'd to be an Ass.

147.

Two Sharpers of the Town accidentally meeting, says one, Come, Jack, since we are so happily stumbl'd upon one another, let us take a Pint together?

A

A Match, (says the other ; ) and so they went into a Tavern. But drinking about for a while, when they came to examine their Pockets, they found themselves deceived, one thinking the one had, and the other thinking the other had Money enough to defray the Charges, when, indeed, both of them could make but Eight Farthings. Hang it then (said the Inviter) we had as good be in for a great deal as a little, so they call'd lustily, till it came to a Crown; then looking out at the Window, as if they had been viewing the descent, says one to the other, I have it now. Upon that, knocking, and desiring to speak with the Master, up he came : Sir, says one, we came hither about a Mathematical business, to measure from your Window to the Ground ; I have lay'd upon 13 Foot, 9 Inches ; my Friend on 13 Foot ; and you are to be Judge, that I slip not this Line till he goes down to see whether from this Knot (shewing it him,) which is just so much, it reaches the Ground. The Vintner was content. The other Sharper being below in the Street, cry'd, It did not reach by 11 Inches. Pray, Sir, says he to the Vintner,

ner,

ner, hold it here, till I step down and see ; for I cannot believe him. So down he went, telling the Drawer he had pay'd his Master, and away they both scow'r'd, leaving the String for his Reckoning.

148.

A Coffee-man of a very thick Skull, often bragging that a great Estate would fall to him before he dy'd ; for a Gipsey who had told him his Fortune, had assured him of it. A Person who had a mind to put upon him, coming in one day, as in puffing haste, said, Now, Mr. N. I come to tell you brave News : There is an Estate left you by One of your old Acquaintance. Who is that ? (said he.) Nay, (said the other,) I am out of breath ; Let us drink first, e're I tell further ? With all my heart, Sir, (said the Coffee-man ; ) What will you please to drink ? Command it, and it shall be at your Service ? Why (said the Gentlemen) I think, a quart of Mum : And down thunder'd Ignoramus to fetch it ; when the Thoughts of this Estate employ'd his Faculties to that degree,

114 England's merry Jester; Or,  
degree, that for haste, he came running  
up agen with his Spigot in his Hand,  
whil'st the Barrel of Mum run about  
the Cellar. The Gentleman minding  
him, could not forbear laughing: Which  
the other not regarding, insisted to know  
when he should be possessed of this great  
Estate he talk'd on? Why e'en (says the  
Gentleman) when you come to Years  
of Discretion, and can distinguish a Lye  
from an *Æsop's* Fable; and so left him  
to be banter'd by the rest of the Com-  
pany.

149.

A grave Blade going by a House he  
had formerly frequented, seeing it shut-  
up, and a Bill to Lett it, he demanded  
what was become of the Owner of it?  
Why, *reply'd one that stood by*, he is gone  
off, and it is seiz'd upon for a Mortgage.  
Nay, *said old Dry-boots*, I found the House  
within so full of Meat and Drink; when  
I was there last, that I guess'd it would  
grow queasie-stomach'd in a short time,  
and spew out its Master.

150. An

150.

An aged Woman being very much indisposed, One came to comfort her, and asked if he should read by her? Yes, if you please, *said she*. And what shall I read? *said he*. Why truly, *reply'd she*, what you imagine best: but now I think further on it, *continu'd she*, I think it had best be Matrimony; for that has been very sweet and comfortable to me formerly; and may yet for ought I know, give some Ease and Refreshment by the Power of Imagination.

151.


A Man with a great red Nose, being a Passenger on Shipboard, was mighty timorous in a Storm: and though the Ship was in danger to be cast away, the Cabin-Boy could not forbear laughing, though he receiv'd some Basting for his unseasonable mirth. The Storm being over, the Party demanded the Reason of his Laughter? Oh! *said he*, to think how your Nose would have whizz'd,





whizz'd, if we had been cast-away; and made the Water boyl up, as you were going down to the bottom.

152.

 A Person very mis-shapen, would, notwithstanding, have his Picture drawn: but being covetous withal, when it was finish'd, he would not pay the Price agreed on. Well, Sir, *said the Limner*, this is very unfair; however, I value it not a Pin, for I shall lose nothing by it, though you think you have disappointed me. Why, what will you do with it? *said the Gentleman*: Puh! *continu'd he*, Who d'ye think will give any such Price as I now bid you, for another Man's Picture? Oh! *said the Painter*, it is but altering the Property a little, and that do's it. As how, pray? *said the Gentleman*. Why, *said the Limner*, 'tis but putting a Tail to it, and it will pass for an excellent Babboon, to place in a Nobleman's House of Ease-ment. At this the Gentlemen storm'd and bluster'd at a high rate; but for fear he should do as he said, was forc'd to pay him his Price, and take it himself.

153. A.

153.

A Student that was newly marry'd, being a Bed with his Wife, and being used, when single, to read himself asleep, call'd for his Book : But she having another kind of Lesson for him to read, call'd for her Wheel and Spindle. How ! *said he* ; What mean you by this, now 'tis late ? Why truly, *said she*, that I may spin, whilst you reel ; for none but one reeling drunk, would study, by Book, for to learn the Bus'ness we have to do to Night, since every one has it by rote.

154.

A Sailor that had lost one of his Arms, marrying a Female that pass'd for a Virgin ; but pretending to be a Critick in Maiden-heads, told her on the Wedding-Night, That she had put a butter'd Bunn upon him. No matter, *said she*, it is good enough for such a one as you, who are but Part of a Man. Why, you Drab, *says he*, Do you jeer me for being maimed, when it was done, valiantly

118 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
valiantly fighting with my Enemy ;  
And why then, *said she*, do you upbraid  
me with what I have lost, amorously  
embracing with my Friend ? Is it not  
better to be in Love, than Hatred ?  
You lost by your Enemy, and I by my  
Friend ; there's the difference, and so  
let us agree it.

155.

X  
A poor Fellow who had a long time  
gone under a Scandal among the Wo-  
men, for his Insufficiency ; several of  
them being got into a knot, chatting  
together, seeing him come along, some  
pointed at him with forked Fingers ;  
others clapp'd their Hands, Ha loo,  
my Dog ! When in the *interim*, a grave  
Matron, something more charitable  
(you must know) thrusting her self into  
the Gang of Gossips, without knowing  
the meaning of this Diversion, said,  
Oh ! Fye upon you ! How can you be  
so hard-hearted, as thus to abuse a poor  
Man, that does you no injury. Yes,  
*says one, whispering to her*, he has put the  
Cheat upon our Sex ; for he has marry'd  
a brisk Woman, and has got nothing to  
satisfie

satisfie her. Oh, Rogue! *reply'd she,* has he so? Then, Ha loo, my Cat too.

156.

A Cooper having a Wife that used to take too much of the Juyce of Barley over night, could not keep her Vessel from leaking a-bed: For which he chastising her one morning with a Hoop-stick, divers of her Gossips came to intercede for her: some chid him, and others intreated, saying, she was the weaker Vessel. Why, Goody Prattle, *said he,* that's the reason I am about my work; for when she's well hoop'd, she will be stronger, and hold her Water the better.

157.

A Gentleman that used to Romance egregiously, cheapening a large Eel at a Fishmongers Stall, and being asked Half a Crown for it; Puh! *says he,* I bought one at *Amsterdam*, as thick and as long as the *May-Polen* the Strand, for that Price, my Man here can justifie it. Truly said his Man, (willing to bring his Master off, becaule the Fishmonger thought

120 England's merry Jester; Or,  
thought it incredible,) I think, Sir, it  
was scarce so long, considering the  
Chimney it was roasted in, but I be-  
lieve it might be as thick —

158.

X An Apothecary having over charged  
his Brain at a Tavern, and no Coach to  
be got, he was put into a Basket, and  
the Porter sent home with him on his  
Back. Being asked by the Watch, What  
he had got there? replied, Only A-Pot-  
I carry.

159.

X A Taylor being rampant in the ab-  
sence of his Wife, strowling the Streets  
for a bit of Harlotry, cruising too near  
danger, fell foul of a Fire-ship; which  
firing his Main-Yard, that communi-  
cated the flame to other Parts: so that  
for fear of sinking into another World,  
he found himself constrained to be re-  
fitted at a Bottom-Menders (call'd a Sur-  
geon,) who in his Bill, reckon'd him  
such an extravagant rate, viz. 70*l*.  
that he would not pay it without Refe-  
rence:

rence: And Two of the Profession, not to lower the Value of so great a Cure, brought it in, That it was a very Reasonable Bill: So that altho' Mr. Stitch grumbl'd, he was obliged to pay it. But resolving to be even with him, and not to be out-lengthen'd in his Bill, brought him in Eighty Pounds for a Suit and Cloak: Which Two Taylors judged, upon reference, to be very Reasonable. By which means he out-witted his Doctor, got his Money, the Value of the Cloaths, and his Cure, for Nothing. This for the Honour of the Tailors, and the Conscience of either Calling.

160.

A handsome young Woman being marry'd to a rich Man who had lost his Sight by a Blast of Powder, some blam'd her for it; but an arch Wag, to vindicate her, wrote thus:

*Blame not fair Celia, that she marry'd be,  
Tho' she be fair, to one that could not see:  
For in the thing in which she takes delight,  
And he do's covet, there's no need of Sight.*

G

161. A

A scolding Woman being often re-  
proved for the sharpness of her Tongue,  
she justified, That it was the Woman's  
only Weapon, the Use of which they  
ought not to be denied, (as I find it in  
a certain Female Author ; viz.)

*I wonder why Dame Nature thus  
Her various Gifts dispences !  
She every Creature else beside  
With Arms and Armour fences.*

*The Bull with bended Horns she arms ;  
With Hoof she guards the Horse :  
The Hare can nimbly run from harms ;  
All know the Lyon's Force.*

*The Bird can Danger flie on's Wing ;  
The Fish with Fins adorns :  
The Cuckold too, that harmless thing,  
His Patience guards, and's Horns.*

*The Men she Valiant makes, and Wise,  
To shun and baffle Harms :  
But to poor Woman she denies  
Armour to give, or Arms.*

*Instead*



Instead of all this, she do's do,  
 Sharp Tongues she them bestows;  
 Which serve for Arms and Armour too,  
 'Gainst all their pow'rful Foes.

162.

A Man having a very turbulent Wife,  
 and she having tired him out with her  
 Curtain-Lectures, he left the House,  
 and plac'd himself upon a Chamomile-  
 Bank in the Garden: Which she ob-  
 serving, and resolv'd on a fuller Re-  
 venge, threw the Chamber-Pot out of  
 the Window, upon his Head. Well,  
*said he*, we must always expect a Shower  
 after Thunder and Lightning.

163.

A Landlord coming one Morning to  
 dunn a Tennant for Rent, found him  
 standing in the Door-way, with his Eye  
 full of Water. How now! *said the*  
*Landlord*; What's the matter with you?  
 Why, *reply'd the Tennant*, the House  
 smoaks so intolerably, there's no endur-  
 ing it. I can't, believe that, *said the*  
*Landlord*; It never us'd to do so. Then,  
 G 2 pray,

pray, *said the Tenant*, to be better satisfy'd, go up and see. So up he went; and the Room being something dark, the Woman thinking it had been her Husband returned to have t'other Bout at Cudgels for the Breeches, fell to belabouring him with the Broom-stick, crying, You Rogue! I thought I had bang'd you sufficiently! but now I'll do't to the purpose! And so drubbing him down Stairs, he caught his Tenant by the Hand, saying, Come along! Come along! I find your words true, There is no enduring it: Let us therefore to the next Ale-house, and consult how it may be remedy'd.

164.

A Young Woman being marry'd to a Man of Years, and having a brisk Apprentice, he perceiv'd by the Language of her Eyes, and some other Love-Motions, that she bid him come on if he dare: Therefore, his Master being out of Town, he resolving to run the hazard, got into her Bed, and lay as snug as a Thief in a Mill, expecting her coming: and accordingly she came, undress'd,

dress'd, and went in, not knowing of his being there; for he had hid himself over Head and Ears. But no sooner she perceived an unexpected Bed-fellow, but she started, and was about to cry out. At which, he said, Pray, Mistress, don't be frighted; 'tis only I. You! Sirrah! you impudent Rogue! *reply'd she*; How came you here? Indeed, *said he*, now I consider better, coming up in the dark, I have mistook my Chamber; and heartily begging your Pardon, I'll retire. No, *said she*; now you are here, I command you to stay till Morning, that I may make you sensible of your VWeakness; but be sure you presume not the like again, for fear I should acquaint your Master with it. —

## 165.

A downright Country Fellow, Son to a Farmer, having cast his Eyes upon another Farmer's Daughter, desired his Father to speak to her Father, that he might have her to Wife: (For it is the laudable Custome, in some Countries, for the Fathers to make up the Match between their Children, over a Pot of

G 3

Ale.

126 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
Ale, Unfight, Unseen, as the Coun-  
try Phrase is.) The Old Men agreed ;  
and then came Dick to court his Mi-  
stress, and address'd himself to her in  
this Complemental manner. Well,  
Joan, Do'st thou know what my Va-  
ther said to thy Vather ? No indeed,  
Richard, ~~not~~ I, reply'd she. Law yee now !  
said he ; What a Vool was thy Vather, he  
did not tell thee ? Why they have agreed,  
That you and I shall be buckled toge-  
ther, as Man and Wife. Alas ! Richard,  
reply'd she, I believe you are but in Jest ?  
Indeed and good troth, said he, I am in  
Earnest. I can't think it, said she ; for  
I know you may have my Betters. That  
I know well enough, reply'd down-right  
Dick ; but you shall serve turn, if you  
will : and without any more a-doe, I'll  
take thee, for better for worse, as thy  
Vather took thy Mother.

166.

A Man of a very squeamish Stomach,  
coming into a Cook's Shop, in Smith-  
field, to purchase a Dinner ; but it being  
Bartholomew-Fair-time, and the People  
sweating at the Fire, and otherwise em-  
ploy'd,

ploy'd, though he spoke several times, they minded him not: so that being overcome with the Steam of the Meat, and great Heat of the Fire, his Appetite went from him, and he was going out. The surly Cook, though before not at leisure, now clapt hold on his Shoulder, and charged him with Running away, and not Paying his Reckoning. The Man told him he had had nothing, but had filled his Belly with the Scent. Why, that's all one, *said the Cook*; a Belly-full's a Belly-full, though it be of Air; and you shall pay me for *that*, before you go, seeing you have troubled my Shop. The Cook insisting on this, it was agreed to be put to reference: And in the mean time, a Natural Fool coming by, it was agreed, on both Sides, that he should decide it. Let me see, Mr. Cook, *said the Fool*, a couple of empty Dishes? Which were brought. Now, *said the Fool to the other*, Let me see a Piece of Mony? Which he produced. Then he put the Mony between the Dishes, and gingling it about, cry'd, Do you hear it, Mr. Cook? Yes, *reply'd he*; but I had rather have it in my Pocket. No, *reply'd the Fool*; my

Award is, That you shall be satisfy'd with the Gingling of the Money, as the Man was with the Scent of the Meat.

167.

A Person of Quality, desirous to beg a Gentleman for a Fool, thereby to get his Estate, made great Interest at Court in that Affair. But the Gentleman being to have a Hearing, before it could be allowed, said, I wonder this Nobleman should be desirous to rob me and my Posterity, under pretence, That I am a Fool! Why, grant I am an Ideot; my Father that begot me was a Wise Man: And why then may not I, who am a Fool, beget wise Children? while this Nobleman, for ought I know, as Wise as he is, may have a Fool to his Son, as well as my Father. This reasonable Answer dash'd the Project; and the Nobleman had only a flap with a Fox's Tail, for his pains.

168. A

168.

A Fool coming to a Gentleman's House, and in the Tapestry-Hangings seeing the Picture of a Fool wrought in, he very fairly takes his Knife and cuts it out, and privately hid it. Soon after, running to the Master of the House, he said, Come, *Harry*, give me a Bottle of Sack, for saving your Hangings. How so! *Jack!* said the Gentleman; How have you sav'd 'em? Were they on fire? No, reply'd he; but by cutting out the Picture of the Fool that was in them: for had my Master seen it, he would have begg'd them, as he did me and my Estate.

169.

A Person who was a great Eater and Drinker, delighting in Gluttony and Riot, courting, one day, a brisk young Widow, among other complemental Expressions, said, Madam, I love you as well as I do my own Soul: By all that's Good! — Nay, Nay, said she, interrupting him, you need not swear it; for

G 5

by



by the course of Life you lead, it appears, you have no regard for its welfare : but if you had said, You lov'd me as well as you do your Body, there might have been something in that ; seeing you are at so great Care and Charge, in cramming it every day.

170.

A Country Fellow seeing the rude Rabble a pulling down a Bawdy-house, said, Ah ! What a shame is this, to be suffered ! For if they be thus permitted to go on, where, in a short time, shall we find a House standing in *England* ?

171.

X  
A Quaker having sold a Man a Horse, whose Eyes, though they appeared tolerably fair, were, nevertheless, stone-blind : so the Jockey asked him, after he had pay'd down the Mony, what Faults he had. Do'st thou see any in him ! says *Yea and Nay*. No, truly, reply'd the Jockey, not I. Then I'll assure you, said the Man of Conscience, upon the Word of a Friend, he sees none in thee.

thee. And so, with a Quibble; the Biter was bit.

172.

A down-right Country Fellow being troubled with a Standing-Ague, which put him to pain, he went to a Quack-Doctor, and made known his Grievance to him: VVho with a Cloth, and cold VVater, reduced the rebellious Member to a quiet temper; for which he gave him Half a Crown. But a while after, being in the same Predicament, and going for another Application, when instead of the Doctor, he found only his VVife at home; who being inform'd of his Grievance, took another way to cure him, with a more proper Remedy; the newness and strangeness of which so tickled his Conceit, that he offered her a Crown; but she having received her Satisfaction before, would take no Mony: so after many Scrapes and Cringes, he departed. But scarce was he got a Bow-shoot from the House. e're the Doctor, coming homeward, espy'd him; telling the Gentlemen in his Company what he was, and upon what account he had been

132 England's merry Jester; Or,  
been at his House ; and, to please them;  
resolv'd to put a Joak upon Hob-nail:  
And well! *says he*, honest Fellow ! How  
stands it now with you? I see you have  
been at my House again. In good vaith!  
*Zur, reply'd he*, it Stands not at all with  
me now ; for your VVife put it into a  
warm place, and lay'd it presently, and  
for never a Varthing. At this the  
Doctor blush'd ; and the Gentlemen  
laugh'd till their Sides ak'd, to find the  
Doctor so finely dubb'd of the Forked-  
Order.

173.

X A Butcher being made Mayor of a  
small Corporation, his VVife fancy'd,  
that by reason of this new Honour, she  
should be highly reverenc'd by her  
Neighbours. So coming to Church the  
next Sunday just as the Creed began,  
the People all started up, it being usual  
to stand when it is reading ; Mistress  
*Mayorefs* imagining it was done in respect  
to her, cry'd out, VVell, good People, I see  
now, you have some good Breeding,  
and know how to behave your selves be-  
fore your Betters ; for which you may  
expect

expect my Husband's Kindness, before he goes out of his Place.

174.

A Country Fellow, that had never heard Cathedral Musick, coming into the Choir, and there listning a while to the Organs, and the melodious Harmony of the Singing-Men, cry'd out, as if he had been transported, Lord ! must I go to Heaven presently ? Let me but go home first, and take leave of my Wife and Children, and then I'll go most willingly.

175.

A covetous fellow having an indifferent Fortune, would often brag, how bravely he would live, if he could encrease it to so much more : which, in process of time, happen'd according to his desire, with an Overplus ; and then he lived more niggardly than before, hardly allowing himself Necessaries for the Support of Life or Decency : When one day, passing by One's Door with whom he was at enmity, the Man standing

ing there, said, Well, Neighbour, you grow Richer and Richer; and I pray God to send you as much morre as you have. Why that Wish from you, *said he*, when I know you hate me? That makes me wish so, *says the other*, that you may double your Covetousness, and starve your self.

176.

A raw Country Wench being newly come to an Inn to live, a Gentleman ordered her to grease his Boots against Morning; which she accordingly did, and set them in a Loft where Rats were used to haunt, and several Holes were soon eat in them: which she finding, early in the Morning ran into the Gentleman's Chamber, in a great fright, crying out, Oh, Sir! the saddest and strangest News you ever heard in your whole Life! What is that? *said he*, (thinking no less than that half the Country had been sunk by an Earthquake.) Why, *said she*, the Rats have eat your Boots, Man! And is that so strange? *replied he*; such Chances have often happen'd: but if thou had'st brought me certain

certain News, That my Boots had eaten up the Rats; *that* had been worth the hearing.

177.

A rich Miser having made a poor Man wait on him for some Mony he promised him; at last began to banter him, saying, If he could persuade him to it, he should have it. Well, *said the other*, there is but one thing now, that I would persuade you to, and that I would do, if it was possible. And what is that? said he? Prithee, let me know it? Why truly, *reply'd he*, to persuade you to hang your self, that the World might have one Knave the less in it.

178.

A brisk Lass, asking a Gallant, How it came to be a Custom, That the Men always make the first Address to the VWomen? That does not always hold good, *replied he*: but however, the reason is, Because the Men always come when they are prepared; but the VWomen need no time for that, for they are ready at all times.

179. A

A Fellow being to be Hang'd with others, for Robbing a House, his VVife came after him to the Gallows. At which he grew very angry, saying, Get you home Huswife, and wash your Dishes; there cannot be a Meeting in all the Country, but you must make one among them, with a Murrain t' yee!

180..

VVhen Popery, of late, began to be rampant in *England*, some Priests being jolly at a Tavern near *Somerset-House*, were disputing which was the Highest Saint. One said, *St. Dominick*; another, *St. Ignatius*: And so not agreeing, they resolved to put it to the Drawer, when he came up with the next Bottle. VVhich being done; Puh! said he; Can't you tell that? Every Fool that looks upon a Sign, can tell that. VVell! And which of them, say you, is the Highest? because you pretend to such Knowledge? says he who had stood up for *Ignatius*. Why, truly, reply'd the Drawer, *St. George*:



St. George : for he rides a Horse-back,  
and all the rest go on Foot.

181.

A Man chiding his Younger Son, for being a Sluggard ; said, His Elder Brother had the good luck to be abroad early, before the Roads were much frequented, and had found a Bag of Mony. Ay, Father, *said he* ; but the Owner, who got up so early, and lost it, had better have been a bed, as I am.

182.

Two Country Fellows going along the Streets, gaping all the way at the Signs, at last they came to that of the *Mermaid* ; which put them to a stand, what to make of it. Oh ! *says he*, now I know what it is ; It is a Lady with a Fish in her Arse. Ay ! but how got it in ? *says the other*. It may be, *reply'd his Companion*, it might be, when she wash'd her self last in the Sea. This being learnedly discussed, one of them stepping forward, and seeing the Sign of the *Unicorn*, cryed, Lau yee ! Here is  
a

138 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
a stranger thing? What is this call'd?  
Why, you Fool! *said the other* ; Don't  
you know what that is? Why, 'tis a  
Horse with a Barber's Pole in his Fore-  
head?

183.

An ignorant Blockhead, complaining  
for a great deal of Mony that was  
Owing him; was asked, who was his  
Debtor? reply'd, By one that had been  
dead seven years: yet he was resolved  
to sue him for it, for all that; for he  
should not think to cheat him so. At  
this the Hearers began to laugh, telling  
him, the Dead are not sensible, nor ever  
pay Debts; therefore it was but a folly  
to expect it. Hey day! *says he*, that's  
very pretty, indeed! Why, by this  
means, when a Man has a mind to cheat  
all the World, it is but to die, and they  
may go look their Remedy.

184.

A Gentleman who took a great de-  
light in Cock-fighting, sent his Bag of  
Cocks, by an Irish Servant, to the Pit,  
where

d? where a great Match was to be fought  
 n't that day, charging him to keep them  
 s a close till he came. But O Donnel being  
 e. early there, forgetting his Orders, re-  
 solved to have a little Sport, to pass away  
 he time, and so threw the three Cocks  
 into the Pit; who being of the right  
 strain, fell immediately together by the  
 ears, sometimes one to one, sometimes  
 two upon one, and sometimes all in a  
 muddle: whilst O Donnel leapt and skipt  
 about them, and challenging any one  
 to wage Two new Haltpenny Half-  
 Croon Piefles which beat. But so mor-  
 tal was the Combat, that two were  
 kill'd out-right, and the other mortally  
 wounded. His Master hereupon com-  
 ing, and seeing what had happen'd, in  
 a great Rage, said, You confounded  
 Dog! How came this about? By my  
 Shalwashion, Dear Foy, if dee wot no mauk  
 mush anger, I will tell dee, indeed: I did  
 pot dem down upon de plaush here, and dey  
 did faul out, as if dey had never seen one  
 anoder before: De'll tauk'em, if I did shée  
 de like in all my life now, dat dey shou'd  
 mauk such falling-out, and pot the kill upon  
 one anoder, and yet be Broders, born and  
 bred in one and de same Housh, is very  
 strange,

140 England's merry Jester; Or,  
*strange, in good fait, metinks, truly, my*  
*Dear Joy!*

185.


An Irish Footman coming to a Nobleman's House, desired of the Porter, that he might speak with his Lord, for he had earnest Bus'ness with him. He told him he was at Dinner, and he must wait till his Lord had Din'd. But he told him again, That his Business was so Earnest, that he could not stay two Moments. The Porter not knowing of what Concern it might be, whisper'd his Lord in the Ear: Who left the Table, and came out to him. Says Teague to him, *Are you his Lord's Gransh?* Yes (sayd he;) What is your Business? Only, *I wou'd pray dee to do me de favour, to do me de kindness, to tell thy Man, Patrick, when he comes home, I wou'd fain speak with him, about earnest business.* And is this all (reply'd the Nobleman) that you have troubled me for? Yes, indeed, Joy, (said the other. Then (said the Nobleman) it will be requisite that I give you something in remembrance of it, and so order'd him to the Whipping-Post,

ping-Post; where he received a Reward at the Hand of the Common Officer, suitable to the Affront put upon so Noble a Gentleman.

186.

A French-man's Mony falling short, he was forced to buy a Fore-Quarter of Mutton with a pair of Horns on it, for his *Sunday's* Dinner: but it being an unusual Dish, he was non-pluss'd how to dress it; desiring the Butcher to give him a Receipt, how to order it. The which whilst he was doing, a Dog snatch'd it off the Block where he had laid it; and was got a pretty way, before the People cry'd out, French-man! French-man! You have lost your Sheep's-Head. At which, turning about, and not finding himself capable of overtaking the Thief, says, Let him go, Let him go, like a Fool as he is; for he'll be never the better for it, seeing I have the Receipt, and he knows not how to dress it.

187.

 Another of this Country, washing a parcel of raw Tripe at a Brook, which he intended to boyl for his Dinner; and having done, and laid it behind him whilst he was washing his Hands, a Dog came slyly and stole it away. The *Monsieur* being angry thus to be disappointed of his Dinner, a while after seeing the Dog, resolved to catch him and chastize him; but the Curr shunn'd him: Whereupon, to allure him into his Clutches, he pull'd out his Bauble and shaking it, cry'd, *Here Dog, My Tripe; Mo Tripe, Dog.* But the Curr was too Old, to be caught with Chaff.

188.

A Fellow whose Name was *Roach* reeling along by a River-side, and being top-heavy, plung'd in, and lamentably cry'd out for help. But his Companion being as drunk as he, minded him not till he had scrabbled out of his own accord; then asked him how he fared. Oh! (said he that had been double dipp'd)

dipp'd,) You are a trusty Stick, indeed; I might have been drowned, for what care you took of me. Truly, (says the other,) I thought there was no Danger, seeing you was but in your own Element.

189.

A drunken Fellow, reeling home in a frosty Night, when the Moon shone, finding himself very sleepy, laid him down on a Bank that descended sloping into a shallow Ditch of Water; and with tumbling and tossing, slid with his Feet into it, and so lay snoring till People came by, and found him in that posture: they jogg'd him hard, for a time, e're they could wake him at all; and then, between half-'wake and 'walking, he cry'd, Friends, Pray don't disturb my rest at this time a-night, but go to your own Beds, for I can spare you no room; only lay a few more Cloaths upon the Feet, and don't put out the Candle.

190. A



A drunken Fellow being brought before a Country Justice, and upon the Interrogatories put to him, nothing could be got out of him, but that, *Your Worship's wondrous Wise*. So he was committed to the *Roundhouse* that Night, and ordered to be brought in the Morning, when he should be sober. Then said the Justice, How now ! Sirrah ! How came you to so Drunk, last Night ? Lay down your Ten Groats. Was I Drunk, (reply'd he ; ) indeed I know nothing of it. It may be so, (said the Justice ; ) you have slept since ; but then nothing could be got out of you, but, *Your Worship's wondrous Wise*. Did I say so ? (said the Fellow.) Yes, (said the Justice ; here are several to witness it. It needs not, (reply'd the Fellow ; ) I'll take your *Worship's Word* : and if I did say so, I'm sure I was Drunk ; and it is but reason, that I should pay, for putting such an Affront upon you, that you little deserve from any body's mouth ; therefore give me Two-pence, and here is Three and Six-pence.

# THE SECOND PART:

Containing  
*Bulls, Blunders, Banters, Quib-  
bles, Repartees, Wheedles,  
and Pleasant Stories.*

With  
A Particular Character of a *Wheedle*,  
and the *Art of Wheedling.*

## I

THree Men walking in the Fields,  
about the beginning of Harvest-  
time, cries one on a sudden,  
look yonder, *Tom*! there's a bunch of  
Red Black-berries already! At which  
he laugh'd, crying, It was a Bull. Why  
! (says the third,) Are not Black-  
berries Red when they are Green?

H

2. A

## 2.


X A Country Gentleman having a greater Estate, than Stock of Understanding, being upon hard Travel, the Horsetier'd, so that he was forced to put into an Inn : but not liking his Accommodations, and being withal in haste to see a Mistress he was going to be married to, the Bargain being already made by Proxy, he fell a swearing at his Coachman, for not driving on. Sir, *said the Coach-man*, the Horses are able to go no further. Why, hang 'em then, for founder'd Jades, leave 'em in the Inn, and drive on the Coach without 'em.

## 3.

Two Irish-men seeing a Great Officer in a Mazarine Blue Coat, Embroider'd with Silver ; says one to the other, *That is very pretty Garbment ; I wou'd put great kindness upon any one dat wou'd be so shrewd as to put such a one upon my Bank, just now.* Ah ! (*said the other,*) Dear Foy, if I cou'd get a Scarlet Stroat of dat colour, how very fine shou'd I then be, indeed now !

4.

A Fellow having footed it much, till the Soles of his Shoes were about to leave the Upper-Leather, went to a Translator, and making some wry Faces, told him, He would give him Three-halfpence, which was all the Mony he had in the World. Give it me! (says *S. Hugh*;) I prithee, for what? Why, (reply'd the other,) only to do me the kindness to put two Heel-pieces on the Toes of my Shoes, to keep the Water out.



5.


A simple Fellow that had stole a Horse, being before a Judge, and having some odd Notions, buzz'd into his Head, he pray'd him to direct the Jury to find him guilty of Manslaughter, and not of Felony; for he had rather be burnt in the Hand, than Hang'd.

6.

A Country Fellow who had been at London, and among some small matter

H 2

of



of Mony receiving a Guinea, and never having had one before, shew'd it to his Country-folks, as a Rarity : Who standing with their Mouths at half-cock, much admir'd its lustre, asking if there were any store of them at *London* ? Yes, in good troth, are they, *reply'd he* ; for a Man can't take Forty Shillings, but he is compell'd to take Seven or Eight of 'em, though he had rather have Silver.

## 7.

A Person having been at a Noble-man's House, where there was a great Feast ; a Neighbour, at his return, asked him what Chear he had there ? Oh ! very great store, *reply'd he* ; for there was four or five Second Courses brought up and plac'd on the Table.

## 8.

One coming in great haste, to give notice of the Death of a Man that dy'd suddenly ; and being asked, when he died ? Why truly, *said he*, even to Morrow Morning. Ay ! *said he* ; that's strange ! And when, pray, is he to be buried ?

buried? Why, Yesterday, *reply'd he.*  
 Why, this is a strange Contradiction,  
 and cannot be probable. In good sober  
 sadness, says the Fellow, they told me  
 so; I know no otherwise.


9.

A Fellow that newly came up to *Lon-*  
*don*, as an Apprentice, being sent for a  
 Pound of Candles, and in his return,  
 giving too large a step over the Kennel,  
 stumbl'd, and all dirted them: Where-  
 fore, having a cross Mistress, he went  
 to a neighbouring Ale-house, and in a  
 Pail of Water washed them. But then  
 being wet, an arch Wagg advis'd him  
 to hang them by the Fire to dry,  
 whilst he tippl'd his Pint. But prating;  
 and not minding them, the Fire being  
 very hot, had quickly melted all the  
 Tallow; when turning about and mis-  
 sing them, Well, *said he*, I have often  
 heard that this *London* is a very thieving  
 place, and now I find it true; for some  
 body has put his Arm down the Chim-  
 ney, stole my Candles out of the top of  
 it, and left only a bunch of Candle-  
 Wicks in the room of them; and with

*another desirous of Al 3 qu of this  
 only to bring out of Candles, got a good  
 living, dipping them in soft butter.*

150 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
this lamentable Story he went home to  
accept of a broken Pate.

10.

An old Inn-keeper having married  
a brisk young Woman in the Town, a  
Spark that came to the Inn, had a great  
mind to be tickling her Fancy ; and by  
Ogling, squeezing her Finger, and softly  
treading on her Toe, made her under-  
stand the Passion he had for her ; so that  
they soon came to a Parley, and he  
found little difficulty to make her pro-  
mise him to Surrender ; but a conve-  
nient Place was next to be assigned, for  
the Signing and Exchanging Articles.  
At length they appointed to meet, when  
it was dark, in the House of Ease-ment.  
But when they were in the mid'st of  
their merry Conceit, the Old Man  
came thundering at the Door. Who's  
there ? *says the Spark ?* It is I, *reply'd he ;*  
Let me in ; I'm in haste. You can't  
come in, *says the Spark ;* I am in before  
you, and you must stay while I have  
done. Why so ? *says the Husband ;* there  
are two Holos. I know that, *says the*  
*Spark ;* but I am just got into one, and  
the



the other is all befoul'd: With which flamm he sent him away, to ease himself upon the Dunghill, while the two Lovers went on with their Show.

## II.

Many People have wonder'd at the meaning of Throwing at Cocks on a *Shrove-Tuesday*; which, for your better Information, take as followeth. A good Woman, you must know, once upon a time, in her Husband's absence, had occasion for some secret Service to be done her by a Neighbour of hers; to which only the Cocks and Hens were privy: When Crowing-time came, the old Cock standing a tiptoe on his Dunghill, began his usual Crow; which the Woman's guilty Conscience interpreted thus, *My Master's a Cuckold, I know it.* Do you so? *says she*; I'll spoil your telling of Tales: Whereupon, catching him up, she was about to wring off his Neck; but thinking that too easie a Punishment for so great a Crime, she gave him to a parcel of rude Boys, to knock on the head with a Cat-stick: And so began the foolish Custome.

A Country Farmer, who drudg'd on only for the Payment of Rent, and a little Victuals ; yet to add to his Misery, was troubled with a turbulent, scolding Wife ; as one day he was at Plough, weary and sweating, his Horses were Jaded ; and crossing him, he fretted extremely ; and in his Passion, call'd out for the Devil to come immediately and fetch them away : When (as the Story goes) up came one of *Belzebub's* menial Servants, to fulfil his Request. At whose terrible Shape, and fierce Countenance, the poor Man being affrighted, intreated his absence ; for he had no business with him. Why, said *Mephistophiles*, did you not call me to take your Horses ? Ay, said he ; but I was only in jest. Oh ! reply'd the Devil, I don't use to be jested with, but will have something e're I go. Then, said the poor Man, pray go and take my Wife away. Then skipp'd the Infernal Messenger, and horsing her on his back, flew with her to his Master's Dungeon : but there she kept such a Clamour, made such Cabals and Disturbances,

bances, that the poor Dog of a Devil was ordered, upon pain of being hung up by the heels in a smoaky Chimney for a Thousand Years, to carry her back again. But then the Husband would not take her, declaring she was bad before, but now she would be ten times worse. Why? said *Mephostophiles*; If you will do it, I will make you a famous Doctor; and prescribe what you will, it shall have success, if you see me at the Bed's-Head; but if at the Feet, the Party will die. This being agreed, the first he practis'd on, was an Usurer, whose Conscience started at the Thoughts of Another World: but the Devil, it seems, appearing at the Feet, he very sadly told him, He must die. Oh! said he, talk not to me of Death; use your best Endeavours to save me, and I'll give you a Hundred Pound. Upon this, he beckoned the Devil to come up to the Bed's Head: but he shook his Horns, as unwilling to do it. Whereupon, stepping to him, and whispering in his Ear, he said, Before *George*, if yee don't do it, I'll fetch my Wife to you. The terrour of which Threat made him skip thither presently, and then he gave

154 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
his Patient comfort under his Affliction  
in a very short time.

13.

A *Quaker* that was a Barber, being  
sued by a Parson for Tythes ; *Yea and Nay*  
went to him, and demanded the reason,  
why he troubled him, seeing he never  
had any Dealings with him in his whole  
Life. Why, *says the Parson*, it is for  
Tythes. For Tythes ! *says the Quaker* ;  
I prithee, Friend, upon what Account ?  
Why, *said the Parson*, for Preaching in  
the Church. Alas ! then, *reply'd the*  
*Quaker*, I have nothing to do to pay  
thee ; for I come not there, Oh ! but  
you might, *says the Parson* ; for the  
Doors are always open, at convenient  
Times : And thereupon, told him, he  
would be pay'd, seeing it was his due.  
*Yea and Nay* hereupon, shook his Ears,  
and making several wry Faces, depar-  
ted, and immediately entred his Action,  
it being in a Corporation Town, against  
the Parson, for Forty Shillings. The  
Parson, upon notice of this, came to  
him, and very hotly demanded, why he  
put such a Disgrace upon him ? and for  
what

what he did owe him the Money? Truly, Friend, *reply'd the Quaker*, for Trimming. For Trimming! *said the Parson*; why, I was never Trimm'd by you in my Life. Oh! but thou might'st have come and been Trimm'd, if thou hadst pleas'd, for my Doors are always open, at convenient Times, as well as thine.

## 14.

In former days, an ambitious Gentlewoman, desirous to be a Lady, had indented with her Husband on Articles of Marriage, That he should be Knighted. Which coming in, in discourse with another Gentlewoman, she ask'd how much that Honour would cost? Why, *reply'd the other*, about an Hundred Pounds. Why then, *said she*, mine shall never be at that Charge; for I'll Dubb him my self first, and so may you yours, and save the Money, if you be wife.

## 15.

A young Scholar, the Son of a Farmer, coming to visit his Parents, put out many

many Quibbles : which made the Country Fellows that came to see him, stare, and imagine he Conjur'd, and was calling up *Mephostophiles* to show Tricks. But one night, being at Supper, and a couple of Fowls set on the Table, to show his further Skill, he must needs be chopping Logick : Now, *said he*, Father, I'll show what Learning can do : You see these Two Fowls. Ay, (*said the Father*, and so *said the Mother*.) Well then, *continu'd he*, I'll show you how to make Three of them. That's brave ! (*says the Old Woman*,) and will quickly encrease our Store : But how (*continu'd she*) do you make that appear ? Oh ! (*said he*,) by Logick : As thus ; Here's One, is there not ? Yes, (*said she*.) Then taking up the other, Here's Two, (*said he* : Now, Two and One makes Three. Well (*said the Father*,) I think you have made it out pretty well ; we will have these Two, and you shall have the Third for your self : And so our Logician, for his Quibble's sake, was forc'd to go supperless to bed.

## 16.

An Old Woman having forgotten her Spectacles, and seeing some People crowding about a great Babboon, dress'd up in Antick Fashion, took it for the Indian Embassador, squeez'd in among them; and seeing some laugh, said, O fye! good People; Are you not asham'd to use Strangers at this rate? I protest, it is no wonder that you are us'd no better in their Country, when you thus flout a reverend Gentleman, because he is new come over, and can't understand our Language.

## 17.

A Constable whose Name was *Nott*, being upon the Watch, a jolly Fellow who had some little knowledge of him, was brought before him; and then demanding where the Constable was, the other strutting with his Staff in his hand, said I am he. You are *Nott* the Constable, *reply'd the other*. Then said Mr. Constable, *Nott*, I say, I am the Constable; and that you shall find, to  
your



your sorrow, if you dare deny my Authority once more. You do not hear me, *reply'd the other*, deny your Authority; for I say, you are *Nott* the Constable. Well, said the Regent of the Nocturnal Band of Bill-men, Take him to the Counter. And the next Morning, it being canvass'd before a Justice, and the Constable's Ignorance appearing, in not knowing his own Name, when he heard it, he was order'd to pay the Fees; and give the Party he had committed a Treat of a Guinea, to be Friends with him.

## 18.

A lusty Wench coming out of the Country, and living with the Beadle of the Parish, an old Watchman made Love to her: who having stay'd a long time, without ever being asked the Question; and fearing, if she miss'd this Opportunity, never to meet with one so favourable again, clapt up the Bargain, and desired a Neighbour who was going into the Country, to give that little Kindred she had there, an Account of the good Luck she had met with at London, in so speedily

speedily altering her Condition. The Man, upon his arrival, was received with such Entertainment as their poor Abilities could afford, and all flock'd about him to hear the News, demanding in what Capacity this Husband of their Kinswoman's was. Oh! *said he*, He is a very reverend Person, a careful One, that looks to the City; and is no less dignify'd, than being One of the Elders that sits in the Gate. All rejoiced at this, concluding him no less than an Alderman, or a Colonel of the Train'd Bands: So leaving them thus deceived, several of them prepared their best Equipage, and came up to congratulate *Dorothy's* Success, in hopes of Rewards and Favours for former Kindness: But when they found she had yoak'd with a Nocturnal Bill-man, whose highest Income was but Forty Shillings a Quarter, they sneak'd home again, without so much as a *How d'ye, Cousin?*

19.

A Country Fellow having been to visit the University at *Oxford*, and being asked what strange Things he had seen there:

160 England's merry Jester; Or,  
there? Oh! *said he*, many strange  
Things; but one above the rest most ad-  
mirable. What's that? *said the other*.  
Oh! *said he*, I saw, in one of the Col-  
leges, a Dog in a Wheel, Spinning of  
Roast-meat.

20.

*Ben. Johnson*, one day, passing over  
*Covent-Garden*, a lame Beggar followed  
him, begging hard for an Alms. How  
now, Fellow! says *Ben.* by what Au-  
thority do you beg here? disturbing  
People with your Clamours, as they  
pass along on their lawful Occasions?  
Oh, Sir! *reply'd he*, I have lost the Use  
of my Limbs in the Service, and have  
a License for it. Ha! (*says Ben.*) Is it  
so? — Well, Friend, Lice, I believe  
you have; but I'm sure, little or no  
sense, to beg Mony of a Poet, as Wit is  
rated in this Age.

21.

Some Spaniards being at Sea in a  
Storm, one of them vowed to offer a  
Wax Tapour at the Shrine of *St. Agatha*,  
(to

to whom they attribute a Power over Winds and Tempests) as big as the Main-Mast, if she would bring him safe to Land. Ay! says his Companion, but where would you get Mony to buy Wax? or a Mold big enough to make it in? Puh! *reply'd he*; never trouble your Head for that; for though I promise such a one now, yet when I get ashore, one of Twelve in the Pound shall serve her turn.

22.

A rambling Foot-man that had been to see some of his quondam Companions in the City, reeling home late, was brought before an Intelligible Constable, who demanded who he belong'd to? He, with some fluttering, told him, to one Mr. Baxter. Oh! *reply'd the Man of Night-Rule*, I understand you now! You say you are Page of the Back-Stairs: Well, well, go about your Business; I must not stop such worthy Men as you, who are Officers at Court: And he dismiss him accordingly.

23.

Two Justices, in a former Reign, having gotten a Fellow between them, upon Examination for a trivial Matter, made a mighty Puther, urging him to go on with his Confession. Why truly, my Masters, *said he*, I find my self between Hawk and Buzzard, and can remember no more at this time, and so pray'd to be dismiss.

24.

A Woman being told by an arch Wagg, of whom she enquired for News, That there was an Order made, That every painful, laborious Man, that had been Cuckolded Three times, should have a Pension allow'd by the Society of Cuckold-makers in London. Will they so, *said she*? why, that will be a great help to us; for my poor Husband may justly claim Ten Pensions.

25. A

A needy Fellow walking in the Fields and musing how to get Mony, espying in a Tuft of Grass a heap of *Album Graecum*, (as the Learned call it,) or in plain English, *White Dogs-turd*, he took it up, and cast in his Mind, how he might make some Advantage of it, to supply his craving Necessities. And finding any thing, in a manner, that had but a hard Name, went off at *London*, among some sort of People, he Christen'd it *Torvine*; and putting it up in Papers very decently, feigning an Outlandish Tone, went about the Streets, crying, *Who buy my Torvine, to make you Ready-witted, and speak Truth presently.* Among others, a Yorkshire Man, that was to give Evidence in Law-Matter, and having but a bad Memory, thinking by this means to be made an Orator, purchased a Paper of a Shilling Price, with large Directions how to take it; and being greedy of Knowledge, fell to nibbling of it immediately, and then to Auttering and spawling, crying out, *It was a Tyke's Turd.* Why, *Lau yee there!*

164 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
there ! *said the other, laughing ;* Did I not  
tell you, it would make you Ready-  
witted, and speak Truth presently.

26.

A Man that had Robb'd a House, being  
Taken and Condemned at *Paris*, was  
carried a Mile out of that City to be  
Hang'd ; but could not, all the way  
he went, forbear laughing at a merry  
Conceit that came into his Head. His  
Father-Confessor chid him for it, ex-  
horting him to be serious, and urged  
him to give him the Reason of that ill-  
tim'd Mirth. He told him, He should  
know the Occasion of it, before he dy'd.  
And so coming to the fatal Place, where  
he was mounted on the Ladder, he de-  
sired the People to sing a *Salvo Regina*  
that is, a Hymn to the Virgin *Mary*.  
Which when they had ended ; Now  
Father, *said he*, you have often told me  
the Miracles done by *St. Francis*, *St. Ignace*  
*natus*, and Others ; and the Cause why  
I laughed, was, To think I should do  
great a one as any of them, before  
die. What's that ? *said the Fryer*. Why  
even, *reply'd he*, to make a companion



of Cuckows sing in the Middle of Winter.

## 27.

A romancing Fellow, telling a Story, That in the *Cham* of *Tartary's* Court, he saw a Man of a mighty Stature eat a Load of Hay, all but the Truss-bands, for a Wager. That's a small matter, said another, resolving to Out-lye him, though likely to be very true; for I had an Uncle, that was a Woodman, who would make nothing to eat up a Load of Logs for his Breakfast, and a Load of Bavins-bands for his Dinner; but they fill'd him so, he seldome could eat any Supper.

## 28.

A true Toper, that liv'd at the Sign of the *Three Cups*, having a Letter directed to him by a Friend, the Super-scription was, *Three Hundred Cupps*; the next time he met him, he asked him how he came to blunder so, by a false Direction? Oh! reply'd he, I knew well enough what I did; for I could never

166 England's merry Jester ; Or,  
never find but you loved Cups very well,  
and therefore resolved not to stint you in  
your number.

29.

A Man being very earnest to know  
of his Wife, how many of the Ten Chil-  
dren he had, were his own : But she  
put him off, sometimes with Flammes,  
and at other times with Proteftations ;  
till at last he, impatient of Delay, vow'd  
he would go to the Cunning-man to be  
resolved, if she made any further refusal.  
This made the good Woman start, and  
intreat him not to do it ; for such unlaw-  
ful Enterprizes might provoke God to  
take them from him. Well, *said he*,  
to prevent it, tell me truly. Indeed,  
*said she*, I will : This, and this, and so  
going on to the number Nine, are  
yours. And whose is the other ? *said he*.  
Nay, Husband, pray don't ask me that ?  
Well, *said he*, to save you a Scruple of  
Conscience, and to prove my self an  
honest Man, the Parson shall have this  
for Tythe ; for I am satisfied he has a  
Right to it.

30. Some

30.

Some quibbling Experiments being pushed about among jovial Companions, says one, What think you of this Four-square House, now it is likely to rain, if I should so order it, that the Rain should fall but on one side of it. Why, said another, it cannot be, unless you Conjure, and have Power over the Elements. Yes, *said he*; you shall see the Experience of it, for a two Bottles Wager. Done! *says one*; and Done! *says the other*. So staying a little while, it began to rain very plentifully. Now, *said one*, you have lost. No, *said the other*, I have not: And thus I demonstrate it, *viz.* What you see now, is only the Out-side of the House on which the Rain falls, but the In-side is dry; and if you make me any more than the Out-side and the In-side of a thing, then I yield my Wager lost.

31. A

## 31.

A Fellow that had got a shrewd Wife, seeing a Man turmoil'd with an unruly Horse, cry'd out, Friend ! Friend ! if you would tame him, Marry him, and I'll warrant you that will do it.

## 32.

An Old Man that was very deaf, coming to Market to sell a Cow, a Sharper who observ'd his Infirmary, was very diligent in hearkening who cheapen'd; and following one of the Chapmen into an Ale-house, who would not come up to the Price, said, Come, Friend, my Father, yonder, (pointing to him thorough the Window,) is willing to take your Mony; pay it to me, and the Cow shall be deliver'd: so down the Mony was laid. The Sharper thereupon steps to the Old Man, and strikes him earnest for his Cow, at his own Price; but that he must help his Servant to drive her to his Yard, at the lower-end of the Town. To this he consented; and then calling out him that had bought her really, away went

went the Old Man with him, whil'st the Sharper rubb'd off with the Mony, and left them to scuffle it out at Law ; till at length, finding themselves bubbled and cheated, they ended the Controversie with a Woodcock-Feast.

33.

A Plaisterer and his Boy being employ'd to Whiten a House by the Day, were so tedious, that tiring the Patience of the Owner, he one day asked the Boy, in his Master's absence, when he thought they would have done? Who reply'd very bluntly, That his Master was gone to look for another Jobb ; and if he found one, they should make an end of it that Week : but I believe, *continu'd he*, if he misses of any other Work, it will be the End of the next Week before we shall have finish'd this.

34.

A Gentleman requiring a Painter to draw him the Prospect of a fine House, with a Porter standing at the Gate with  
I a Staff

a Staff in his Hand ; he did it all well, to content, but the Porter ; which part of his Instructions he forgot, and was chid for. Why, Sir, *said he*, are you so angry ? the Butler has only invited him into the Cellar, to drink a Glass of Wine ! I'll undertake for him, he shall be at the Gate in an hours time : And so drew him in his proper place.

## 35.

An old rich Citizen, intending to keep himself very warm, resolved to double the Cloth of a Suit he made ; that is, to Line the Coat with the same ; as likewise the Breeches : but in the latter, next his Skin, a Dimmoty Lining was plac'd. The conscious Taylor thought therefore, in such a case, any Cloth would save, and therefore resolved to save that Remnant : in the room of which, he put in an old painted Cloth that had been used in a Play at *Bartholomew-Fair*. When one day, the Party going to Air himself, as he was stepping over a Stile, a Snag happen'd to tear his Breeches ; and going to look upon the Rent, he espy'd two painted De  
vil

vils threatning, in horrid Shapes, with Muck-Forks in their Hands; which made him haste to pull them off; and looking further, found other Devils, tormenting *Drives* in Flames. Starting at this, he ran with them under his Arm to the Taylor, upbraiding him for cheating him; but most of all, that he had made him carry Hell-Fire in his Breeches. Mr. Snipp, upon this, protested, with up-lifted Hands and Eyes, that he knew nothing of it! and wish'd he might go to Hell, to find the Cloth thus chang'd, if he did! (craftily meaning that under the Shop-board.)

36.

A brisk young Sempstres having out-witted many an airy Fop, and sparkish Gallant, was, at last, out-witted herself, in this manner: A Town-Shift, in very good Habit, coming into her Shop, cheapen'd and bargain'd for a considerable parcel of Linnen: and then pausing — said, Oh! I had like to have forgot one thing; I want a Shirt of the largest make; it is not for my self, but for one as big agen. She shewed him

L. 21

there-



thereupon several ; but he complained they were too strait : and then she shewed him another ; which he seemed to like, saying , Pray, Madam, do me the favour to let me see you strip it on over your Cloaths. The which, to please and humour so good a Customer, she did. Then he turning her about, to see how it sate, fasten'd privately the hinder Lappets, with two large Pins, thorough her Cloaths, to the hinder part of her Smock ; then snatching the Linnen he had bargain'd for, off the Counter, out he ran. She thereupon followed him, crying, Stop him ! Stop him ! and hastily going to pull the Shirt over her Ears, as ashamed to pursue him in such a Garment, she with it drew up all her Cloaths, and exposed her naked Posteriors to the Publick, and so ran on, still pulling to get off the Shirt ; whil't some good Matrons, who supposed her to be Mad, stopped her, sensible that she ought to be cover'd behind : Which gave the Sharper an opportunity to rub cleverly off with his Booty.

37.

A Citizen, not much acquainted with Horse-Flesh, seeing a very fine Mare manag'd in her Paces, commended her highly : but, said he, her often breeding will spoil her ; therefore, it were better they could clap a pair of Stones between her Legs, and make her a Gelding.

38.

A Citizen having married a very young Girl, and of as young an Understanding, being invited to a Christ'ning, she took the Child in her Arms, and fell to dandling it, the better to be experienc'd, when one she long'd for came to town : And how old is this Child ? *says she to the Nurse.* Why truly, *reply'd the Nurse,* but Five Days. Nay, *said she,* I know by my little Spot, it must be Nine Days old, or it could not see. At this the Nurse laugh'd, and told her, she would be better inform'd, when she came to Years of Discretion.

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THE  
NEW ART  
OF  
Wheedling.

THE Word WHEEDLE, is of  
so late an Edition, that it is to be  
found in no Dictionary but the Canting  
one ; and imports, a subtle Insinuation  
into the Nature, Humours and Inclinations of such as we converse with ;  
working upon them so effectually, that  
we possess them with a Belief, that all  
our Actions and Services tend to their  
Pleasure and Profit : Whereas it is but  
seemingly so, that we may work on  
them our Ends, and real Advantage.  
Therefore, that People may the better  
see thorough this Veil of Hypocrisie,  
I shall lay open the slye Methods, the  
subtle

subtle *Wheedler* takes to bring about his Purposes.

The *Practised Wheedle*, as *Juvenal* says of such Men in his time, will conform to all sorts of Company : Do you laugh ; they will endeavour to laugh louder : If you are sad and pensive, and prove to weep, they will deluge themselves in Crocadilian Tears : If you complain of Cold ; they Shiver : and if, in the next breath, you say the Weather's Warm ; they'll strait begin to Unbutton, and cry, they are swelter'd with Heat.

*Radens? Majore cacbinna  
Concucitur : flet, si Lachrynas conspexit Amici,  
Nec dolet, igniculum Brumæ si tempore pascas,  
Accipit Endramidem, si dixeris, æstuo, sudat.*

*Juven. Sat. 4.*

The *Wheedle* will be sure never wholly to disapprove what any one says, on whom he has a Design : But if he says any thing never so improbable, or impossible, if he makes not an Apology for it, he will not wholly contradict it, but even his Negative ; like *Janus*, shall bear a double Face ; and without feeling any of your Passions, or understanding

any of your Actions, he shall appear more concerned for you than you are for your selves, and fail not to compose and conform his Countenance and Gestures exactly with yours; and Proteus like, turn himself into any shape of Conversation that may prove profitable or advantageous to him. It is not every one can make a compleat *Wheedle*; for it requires many Qualifications; as, some Learning, good Natural Parts, and a Comely Body; also, a practis'd Reservation, Dissimulation, Flattery, bridl'd or pretended Patience, Humility, Civility, Plausibility, Affability; a seeming Honesty, though none in the bottom: So that Men are cheated by them, before their Eyes; and persuaded, by cunning Insinuations, out of their Reasons, to believe these Flatterers before their own Senses; who, with the Poet, thus whisper to them:

— *Da Justum, Sanctumq; videri:  
Noctem peccatis, & Fraudibus: jobcece Nubem.*

“ Let me seem Just and Holy: Let the

“ Night

“ O'er-cast my Frauds: Let Clouds

“ hide them from sight.

And now for his Qualifications. And the First of these are (as is said) Learning or Languages acquired by Travel: For though he may often meet with Bubbles and Blockheads, he may sometimes, for all his Cunning, catch a Tartar, meet with such as will find him out to be only a silly Pretender to what he professes, and by which he has gained so much Applause; and if he loses his Credit, his Company falls off, and he is left to shift, till in a place that he is not known, he can fasten upon others.

The next, is, good Natural Parts; a fluent way of Discoursing, without Hesitation or Stammering, having all his Words prompt and ready, apt to turn and wind; and when an Ambiguity is deliver'd, to turn it to the best advantage; and so if he finds, at first, he trips or mistakes, he may, upon second thoughts, rectifie his Understanding.

Thirdly, A Handsome, Proportion'd Body, and a winning Presence and Behaviour, which wins and attracts Affection, if suited with a genteel Garb, especially on the Female Sex, on whom they chiefly employ their Talent; so that

that by ingratiating into their Favour,   
 they have many of them shared Estates   
 with the Husband, and liv'd splen-   
 didly, without any other Stock than their   
 Tongues, &c.

These Qualifications being had, the next   
 thing they do, is to haunt the Coffee-   
 Houses, Taverns, Gaming-Ordinaries   
 and such like Places, to observe, by the   
 Behaviour and Demeanour of the Party,   
 what Stock of Understanding he has;   
 but more especially, what Stock of Money   
 or Supplies belonging to him; and then   
 he fixes the first Opportunity he can   
 take hold of, on a Bottle of Wine, or a   
 small Collation; which Generosity he   
 undeniably accepts of; and then, by   
 humouring in all his pretty Fancies,   
 make him believe he is the most accom-   
 plished Gentleman he ever met with in   
 the days of his born; and from that   
 moment, they contract an intimate fa-   
 miliarity, and are seldom asunder, till   
 such time as the Gallant's Exchequer   
 by reason of the profuse Extravagancy   
 begins to be at low Ebb; and then, like   
 a Swallow, he goes off with a canting   
 Complement, to a warmer Sun. When



he sees an Opportunity, he borrows,  
 with Promises and Proteſtations of Pay-  
 ment, when his Eſtate, which he pre-  
 tends is very large, after the Death of  
 his Father, comes into Hands: And if  
 his new *Amicus* is not free in that, then  
 he gets himſelf Arreſted by ſome of his  
 Companions; and ſo ſending for his  
 Friend, tells him a lamentable Story,  
 That he had the miſfortune to be obli-  
 ged for a young Gentlewoman, to a  
 Taylor, for Twenty Pounds; and that  
 ſhe being gone down to her Relations,  
 he ſto fetch up the Mony, her Creditor be-  
 coming poſſeſs'd by one whom ſhe rivals in  
 Beauty and Amours, That ſhe has with-  
 drawn her ſelf, on purpoſe to cheat  
 him, he has Arreſted him at a nick of  
 time when he is out of Mony, but ſhall  
 receive an Hundred Pounds in four days.  
 The kind, good natur'd Gentleman,  
 upon this, opens his Purſe; or if he be  
 ſupply'd, borrows of his wealthy  
 Friends, to ſupply his wheedling One;  
 and by this means he ſupports his Plea-  
 ſure and Riot: Theſe kind of Cattle  
 being like *Pharaoh's* lean Kine, the De-  
 vourers of all the Young Sparks that fall  
 in their courſe to be ſo unfortunate as to  
 be acquainted with them. So

So briefly to conclude, I shall end in  
these Lines of a witty Author :

*When the young Fop comes fluttering up to  
Town*

*From an indulgent Mother, up and down  
He rambles, till at last he is espy'd  
By some sharp Knappe, and is by him decoy'd  
Into a Snare, by's smooth, deluding Tongue,  
Who, Syren like, does lead him, lull'd along  
In a fond waking Dream, till he, at last,  
Too late for Rescue, is on Quick-sands cast ;  
There sadly sees how he has been deceiv'd ;  
And comfortless, is of his Friends bereav'd ;  
Left in a Goal, at leisure to repent,  
And there converse with Want and Dis-  
content :*

*The Wheedle then him, as Contagion, flies, }  
And there, without some true Friend's help, }  
he lies }  
In Misery, perhaps, until he dies.*

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